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GOA CARES
Purple Fest 2023

SHOPPING
Artistic Home Decor
the Siroi Way

**FOOD TRUCKS IN
GOA**

Delicious Street Food
on Wheels

ITADAKIMASU
A humbling Jap-Food
Story in Goa

#Experience Goa

Breathtaking Eco Retreats of Goa

IHCL GOA



📍 Mynt



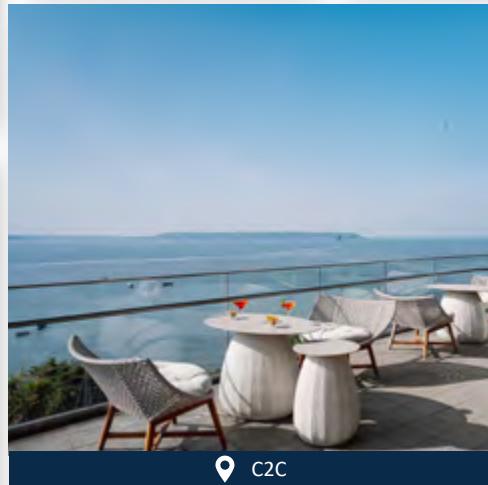
📍 House of Nomad



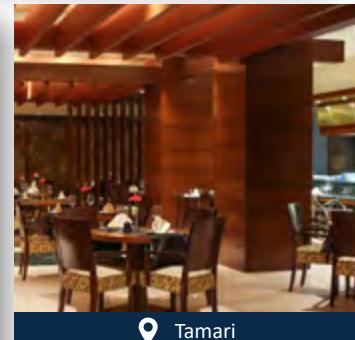
📍 Seven Rivers Brewing Co



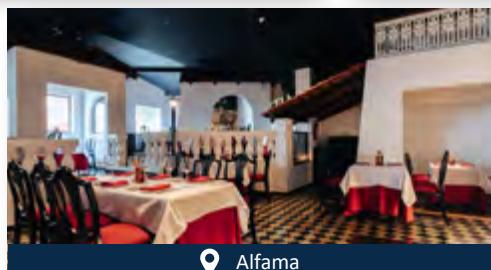
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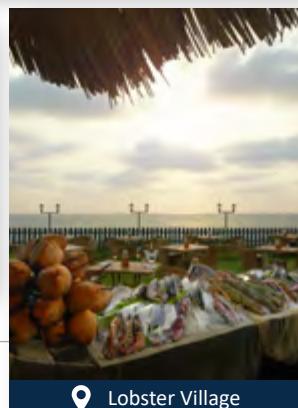
📍 C2C



📍 Tamari



📍 Alfama



📍 Lobster Village



📍 Miguel Arcanjo

Flavours of Goa

Set off on a sumptuous adventure and discover Goa's vibrant culinary spirit. Come, experience an array of global and coastal delights as you indulge in the glories of your favourite restaurants, where soulful delicacies feature ingredients from around the globe, lovingly brought straight to your heart.



SELEQTIONS

VIVANTA

GINGER

amā

Qmin
gourmet quality cuisine

TAJ sats

3 & 4 BHK Luxury Villas in North Goa



Luxury Living in Goa

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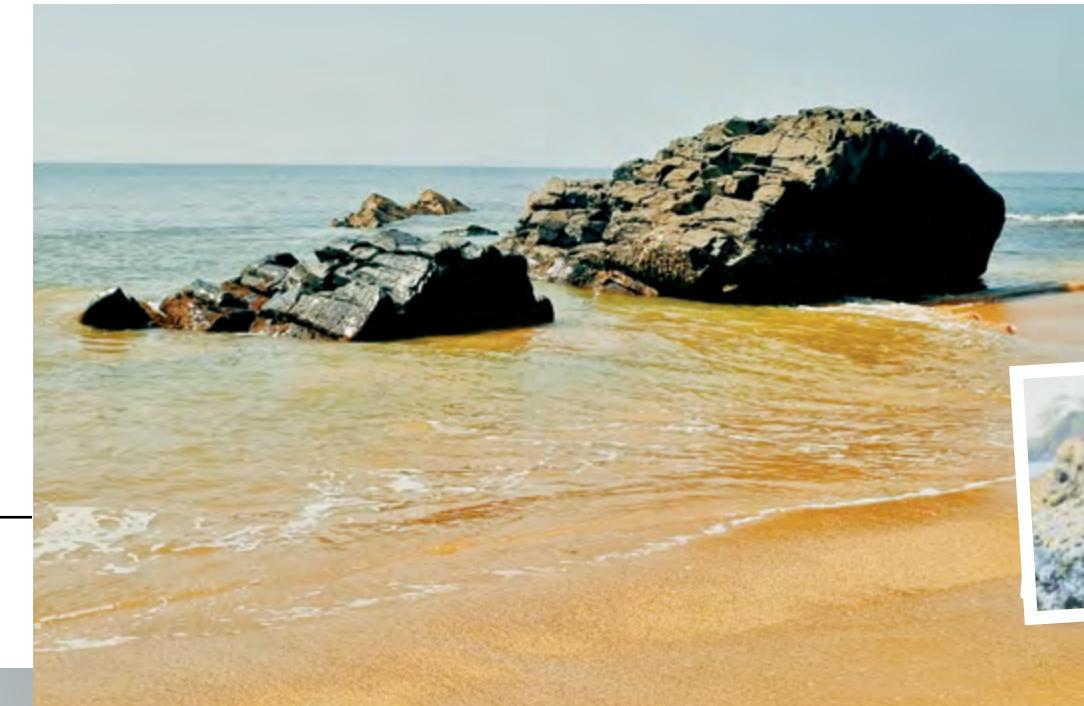
Postcards from **GOA**

Live Goa. Love Goa. That is the mantra of this wonderful land. In this section we showcase the work of our readers who've taken their lenses to capture the sheer beauty of all things Goan.

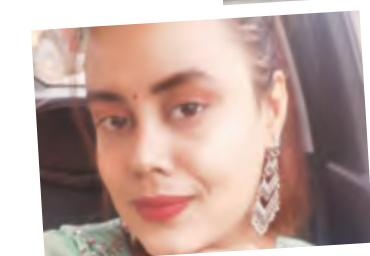
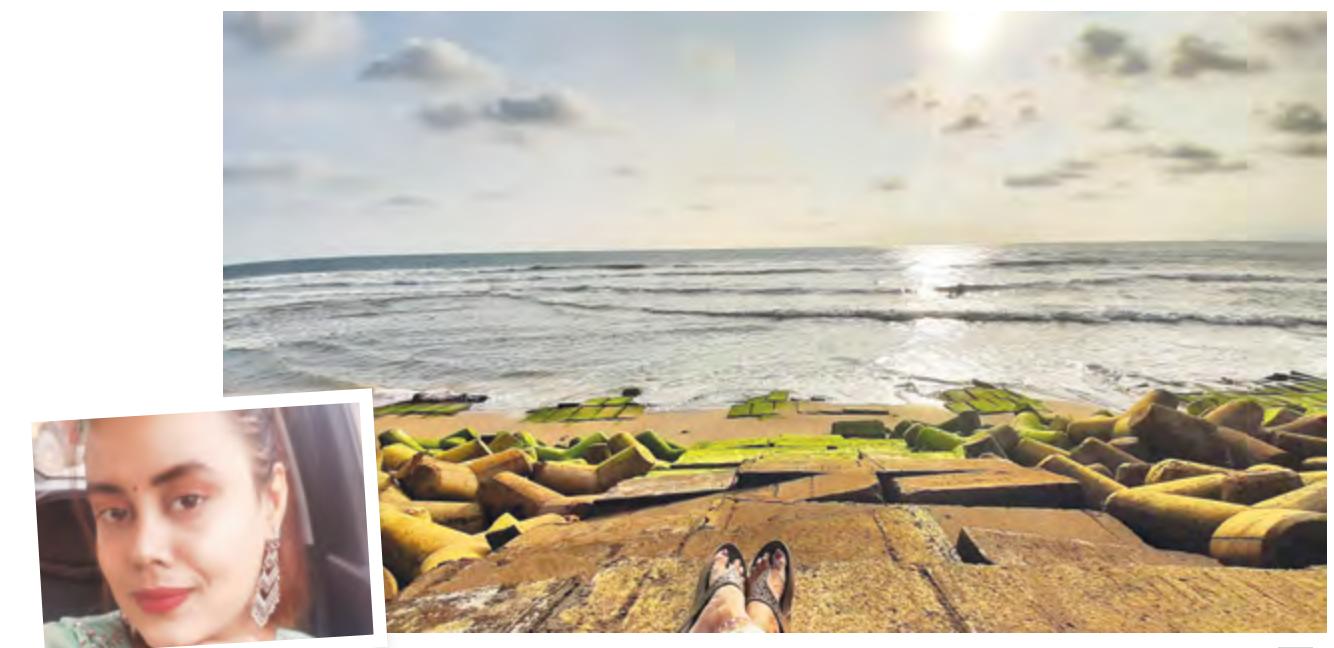
If you are among those who have a creative mind and a lens that captures the very essence and beauty of Goa, then send your high-resolution photograph(s) and a caption, along with a picture of yourself to contact@planetgoaonline.com for a chance to get featured.



DONOVIAN FERNANDES
A Chef at daytime. All other times – an adventurer.



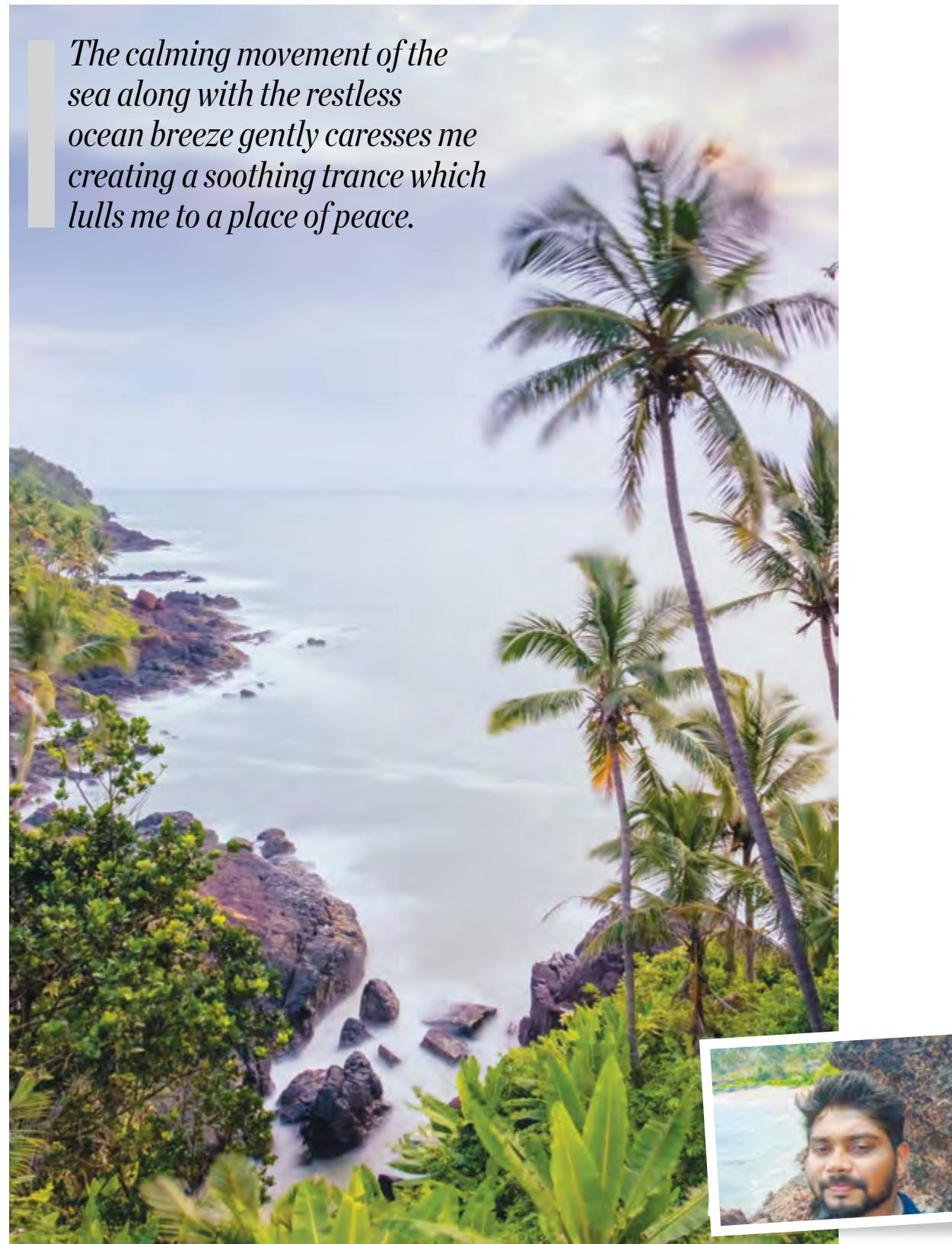
JORRYN REUBEN MORAIS
See it, shoot it, love it



SRINIDHI NILESH TAR
Born and brought up in Goa. Fine Art photographer by Profession. Specialize in interior photography, product photography and food photography. Also, art director and food and product stylist - stylist.im. I am in this profession from past 11 years.

“Let the beauty of sunrise keep your heart warm”

“Joy in looking and comprehending is nature’s unique vibe”

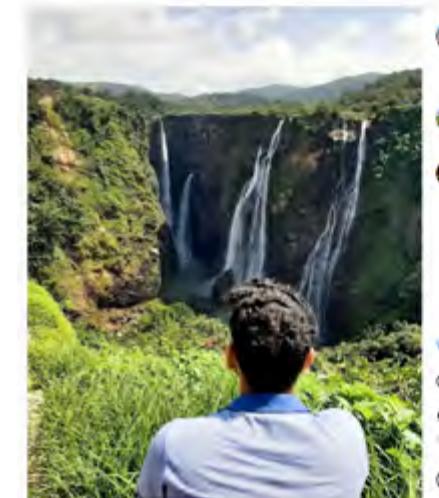


NAGARAJ GAWDE



Follow @planetgoamagazine on Instagram to stay in touch with the nicest stories, updates and buzz from around Goa.

Tag us using #planetgoamagazine to get featured in the Best Photo Stories of the Month. Here are some of the posts from @planetgoamagazine that our followers gave us a thumbs up to:



things they recommend

Bijoy Sengupta, Founder & CEO
BSG Hotels & Stays



The must-visit beach and the reason for it:
Agonda Beach in South Goa for its scenic beauty, white sands, crystal clear water and private-beach-like feeling.

A not to miss non-beach place in Goa:
Divar Island for the river crossing experience and for its beautiful houses and

village roads.

Your favourite local Goan food place:
Star Bar at Old Goa. Don't mind the setting, just go for the food.

Your secret spot in Goa:
Cola Beach and Lagoon. Not on the tourist map until recently. Still has its exotic appeal.

Best place to watch the sunset:
Cabo de Rama. The panoramic view is a bonus.

Where would you want to get lost in Goa:
Arambol for its eclectic lifestyle, beautiful long beach and multicultural atmosphere.

The nicest drive you would never miss:
Driving on New Baina Beach Flyover, Vasco. This newly built flyover lets you drive next to the coast with some breath-taking views.

A heritage site you wouldn't miss:
Tambdi Surla for its 5th century Shiva Temple

The best place to experience wildlife in Goa is:
Mollem National Park.

One quintessential Goan experience, you must have is:
Celebrating the onset of the Goan monsoons by cruising on a houseboat on the Chapora River sailing into the Bay of Chapora. Sip on some Feni cocktails and relish fresh seafood.

what made me settle in goa

Shweta Mukherjee (Mili)
Lifestyle Photographer | Plant Stylist | Sustainable Gardener

I hail from:
I hail from Patna.

The first time I came to Goa
The first time I came to Goa in 2007.

What made me want to settle in Goa
The beauty of the land and people. It gave me the option of a holistic living. Also, less chaotic in terms of choices at various level, especially for my little one.

Here, I keep myself occupied with:
my work (lifestyle photographer, sustainable fashion, plant styling), family, dogs and gardening

My favourite dining place in Goa is
Gun powder

My must-visit recommendations in Goa are
Divar island without disturbing the peace and calmness of the places.

What I would never do in Goa is:
Bring the city culture here, that I long left behind.

What I would change in Goa:
Revive the simplicity that Goa that we all cherish and which is slowly fading away

My tips to people who want to move here are
If you are moving here, expect a 360-degree change in way of living. Best is to leave the city life and its way behind.

Life in Goa to me is all about
Engaging in local way of living and customs. Also, choosing the path of sustainability and purpose led life, with inclusivity.

A place in Goa that calms you down/ makes you happy:
My garden.

Must-do things in Goa:
Explore the nature, learn more about local traditions. Plant walks and local experiences.



my holiday in goa

Amrita Sengupta
VP People, CricHeroes



I was in Goa last in...
June 2019 and now I am living here since May 2022.

I came with
My husband

I chose to holiday in Goa because...
Because of the beach, the clear blue sky, the greenery and the sea food.

For me Goa is...
Simple, close to nature and has a unique vibe.

One dish I

couldn't stop devouring was...
Recheado Calamari, King fish and Chonak Rava fry.

My favourite beach was...
Morjim.

The most breath-taking location...
Divar island.

What souvenir did you take from here?
'I Love Goa' T-shirt which we still wear proudly, while presently living in Goa.

The most memorable moment of my trip was...
Visiting remote places like Surla, Ponda, Sanquelim, all the place where my husband grew up.

Things I missed out on this time...
The most talked about Flea Market of Goa.

One thing you wished Goa had...
Uber.

my life in Goa...

Soumak Mukhopadhyay
Founder & Designer at Jyamiti and Sea
Co-founder at The Creative Lens Photography



In Goa, I do (for a living)...
I run a business of providing cast-in-situ terrazzo and IPS flooring, wall finishes and slabs. My business also manufactures small concrete home décor products. I am also a professional photographer and I photograph weddings.

When I'm with my oldest buddies...
We like to relax and reminisce about old times and catch up over the latest in each other's lives over a few drinks in a nice restaurant. Sometimes, when the weather is suitable, we barbecue in our backyard.

Life in Goa in one word...
Wholesome

Events that I would never miss in Goa...
Serendipity Arts Festival Carnaval

My best memory growing up...
Playing roof-top hand cricket with the friends in my colony

Things I love most about Goa ...
The incessant monsoon rains, the calmness of the beaches, the lazy pace of life, the better quality of life, the vibrant old villas, the roads lined with coconut trees, the connect with a simpler life than in cities

My favourite season in Goa...
Monsoon

My go-to place in Goa...
Agonda

My Goan comfort food is...
Cutlet Pao
Feni (if that counts)

A not-so-tourist spot that I love...
Divar Island

That one thing I miss about Goa from my childhood...
Not just Goa, but in general, I miss the simplicity there was in life in my childhood. Small things used to give us a lot of happiness. That is missing these days. Life in Goa is relatively better off in this aspect than other places I have been too. The Kolkata Biriyani is one materialistic thing I miss in Goa, compared to my childhood.

Talk of the TOWN

Goa Tourism launches new Helipad Service and Helpline in the state to boost tourism



The Goa Department of Tourism has a new helipad service and tourism helpline in Goa. This comes as a delightful addition to the tourism avenues for the state. The helipad has been set up in Dauje, Ella, and Old Goa in partnership with Soaring Aerospace

Private Limited, Goa Tourism. A 10-minute helicopter joyride setting forth a panoramic aerial view for the tourists, costing Rs. 8,000 inclusive of GST per person, is available for famous sightseeing such as Old Goa churches, Divar island, Chorao island, Atal Setu, Panjim city, Miramar, Coco beach/Nerul bay, Fort Aguada, Sinquerim fort & beach, Calangute beach, Candolim beach, and Baga beach. The service will be available for five rides between 11:00 a.m. and noon and between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Customers can commission the helicopter to enjoy exclusive airport transfers to and from Mopa to Dabolim Airport as well. They can also be transferred to or from North or South Goa hotels and resorts whenever landing facilities are available. Also, exclusive city helicopter transfers will be available, viz., Mumbai, Kolhapur, Belgaum, Hubli, etc. The company has an ambitious plan to connect to the Hampi World Heritage Site.

The Heritage monument – Corjuem Fort – will be getting a cool new feature!



The not-so-famous hidden gem in Goa – Corjuem Fort – will be getting an amphitheatre! Cultural events and festivals will be held here. The fort will be in the background of the shows and plinths shall be used to make seating arrangements.

Parts of the fort became weak because of plant growth. The correct temperature is needed to clean the vegetation because everything has to dry up properly. Stones that got affected will be dismantled and rearranged.

For tourists to enjoy the fort's structure as a whole and take in the external views as well, the archaeology department is making a pathway that will go around the fort. The bastion and other characteristics look better from the outside.

The Corjuem fort was built in the year 1550 and officially became a protected monument under the Goa, Daman and Diu Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1978, 1 of 1979 and its rules 1980.

Goa's Heritage drink, Feni, may soon be in Japan!



The mission to share Goa's heritage drink, Feni, with the world is being worked upon! Feni traders of the State are excited to start exporting the drink. One country they got their sights on is Japan as Goa has good ties with them. The Japanese also have an inclination towards premium products.

The Goa government has been requested to introduce Feni to Japan. The president of the All Goa feni distillers and bottlers association, Gurudatta Bhakta, revealed that some traders want to go to the country to get the Japanese acquainted with the product. They are even ready to pay for the international trip by themselves.

Goa's state drink Feni is made from cashew nuts. Feni derives its name from the Konkani word "froth". It used to be consumed as a shot by the Goan working class. They juggled the foam between two coconut shells, mixing it well enough to get the desired kick. Later Feni made a comeback at Goan weddings as a more refined drink in a new avatar. The fermented fruit is put through three stages of distilling in earthen or copper pots, yielding three different drinks at each stage.

(Image used for reference only)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi applauds Goa State Govt for Purple Fest 2023



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Mann Ki Baat program, congratulated the organisers of Purple Fest, the national festival for the disabled, held in Goa January.

"Today in 'Mann Ki Baat', I want to share this with all of you. This event happened in Goa — Purple Fest," Modi said. This fest was organised in Panaji from January 6 to 8, and was a unique effort in itself for the welfare of divyangs, he said. "For making Purple Fest a success, I congratulate all the people who participated and also those volunteers, who came together to work day and night to organise this event. I have full faith that such

campaigns will prove to be very effective in realising our vision of accessible India," Modi said.

"How big an occasion Purple Fest was, you can all guess from the fact that more than 50,000 brothers and sisters of ours participated in it. The people who came here were thrilled about the fact that they could now enjoy Miramar beach to the fullest. In fact, Miramar beach has become one of the accessible beaches of Goa for our divyang brothers and sisters," the PM said.

International Environment and Sustainability Summit 2023 in Goa on Feb 4th 2023

The Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) organised Goa's first International Environment and Sustainability Summit 2023 in the state from February 2 to 4. Almost 300 national and international manufacturers will attend the summit and discuss the best sustainability practices. As the plastic ban has come into effect, one major challenge for states has been to get manufacturers to process waste. The central government is also in the process of framing a manufacturer responsibility policy.

GSPCB chairman Mahesh Patil said that three MoUs will also be signed by Goa during the three-day event. The first will be with the Indian Green Business Centre for green rating of buildings in the state. The second MoU will be with Godrej industries to train personnel in the three municipalities of Sanquelim, Bicholim and Valpoi and from 30 panchayats over three years in sustainability practices and waste management. The third MoU will be signed with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)



A Goa Chef' shares his recipe for a Waldorf-inspired crab salad with an Italian twist

Italian culture bursts with flavour especially when it comes to food and life. Known for its simplicity and robustness, Italian cuisine has gained popularity around the globe. The virtues of Italian food are rightly attributed to the high-quality ingredients that make up the majority of dishes, rather than the complexity of preparation.

Riverside, an Italian restaurant by the River Sal at The St. Regis Goa Resort serves a plethora of innovative Italian dishes by Chef De Cuisine Vetri Selvan. He mentions that the concept for the Blue Swimmer Crab salad is drawn from the classic Waldorf salad, which is traditionally made with apples, celery and walnuts. The addition of apple jelly adds a sweet and sour element to the Blue Swimmer Crab salad, creating a balanced flavour. The jelly also helps bind the ingredients together, giving the salad its unique texture.



Mumbai-Goa Highway to be developed like Mumbai-Pune

to rate industries in Goa. Another understating with The Energy and Resources Institute (Teri) is also in the offing to allow GSPCB employees to carry out their doctorate research, said Patil.



The Maharashtra state government has announced the plans to develop the Mumbai-Goa Highway. The travel from economic capital Mumbai to holiday capital Goa will soon get a makeover. The highway will be built on the lines of the state-of-the-art Mumbai-Pune Expressway and Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi Mahamarg corridor.

During the conclusion ceremony of the Malvani Mahotsav in Thane, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced this development initiative. The Mumbai-Goa expressway will be new construction in the greenfield expressway format. It will have access control, a system pioneered by Mumbai-Pune Expressway. The widening of the coastal road to Sindhudurg in the state's Konkan region is in process, he added.

Meanwhile, the Mumbai-Goa Highway is undergoing a four-laning project, decreasing the travel time from 13 hours to 8 hours. Work is underway, going on in 11-phases which is costing around Rs 17,000 crore. Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said that the four-laning of the Mumbai-Goa highway gets completed by 2024.

National 'Save The Wetlands' campaign to be launched from Goa – Nanda Lake to take centerstage

World Wetland Day will be celebrated at Goa's first and only Ramsar site, Nanda Lake in Curchorem.

The event is being organised by Goa's environment ministry and the Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) in association with the Union environment ministry. "Goa CM Pramod Sawant and water resources minister Subhash Shirodkar will also be present. The



national 'Save Wetlands' campaign will be launched from Goa by Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav, on February 4. The event is being organised to mark the World Wetland Day, which is celebrated internationally on February 2. Managers of all 75 Ramsar sites across India will attend the event. They will also attend a day-long session on February 3 in Goa on conservation of wetlands through community participation. "The 'Save Wetlands' campaign will be held at Ravindra Bhavan, Curchorem. Prior to this, the regional-level workshop under Sahbhagita Mission will be held on February 3. This will also be the launch of the Sahbhagita Mission in Goa, which is to encourage community participation in conservation of wetlands," said Cabral.

Stay updated on the Talk of Town in Goa with www.planetgoaonline.com

- ❖ Ugvem locals plant 500 mangroves along Tiracol river bank
- ❖ Conservation steps suggested by Birders to protect Birds of Goa
- ❖ India's first passenger drone by Indian Navy seen on Republic Day
- ❖ 'Hack-A-Cashew' Hackathon

Vacation Responsibly With These Eco-Stays In Goa

The opulence and charisma of the state of Goa for its beauty is unmatched. The green ecosystem of Goa inherits the gift of mother nature in the form of flora and fauna. While maintaining the richness of the ecosystem, eco-tourism in Goa is increasing its footprint strongly.

This article takes you through some of the most fascinating eco stays and resorts across Goa. They are also working towards reducing their carbon footprints and blending as one with nature.

TEXT BY NIDHI LALL AND SHOBHIKA JAJU | IMAGES BY: PROPERTIES
MENTIONED IN THE ARTICLE



We believe that there is no better host than nature itself. And when you get an opportunity to choose from a galore of homestays beautifully nestled amidst the lush green landscape of Goa, you cannot refuse such hospitality. With the lush greens sprawling across the length of Goa, right from Chorla Ghats to the unspoiled beaches, the eco retreats are setting an example of sustainable living. It's time that we all embrace living in nature and with nature. And these retreats tell you that it is possible.

Apart from South Goa which hosts many eco stays in splendour, North Goa has its spread of these gorgeous stays. Here is a mention of a selected few!

Capella Forest

Retreat & Homestay



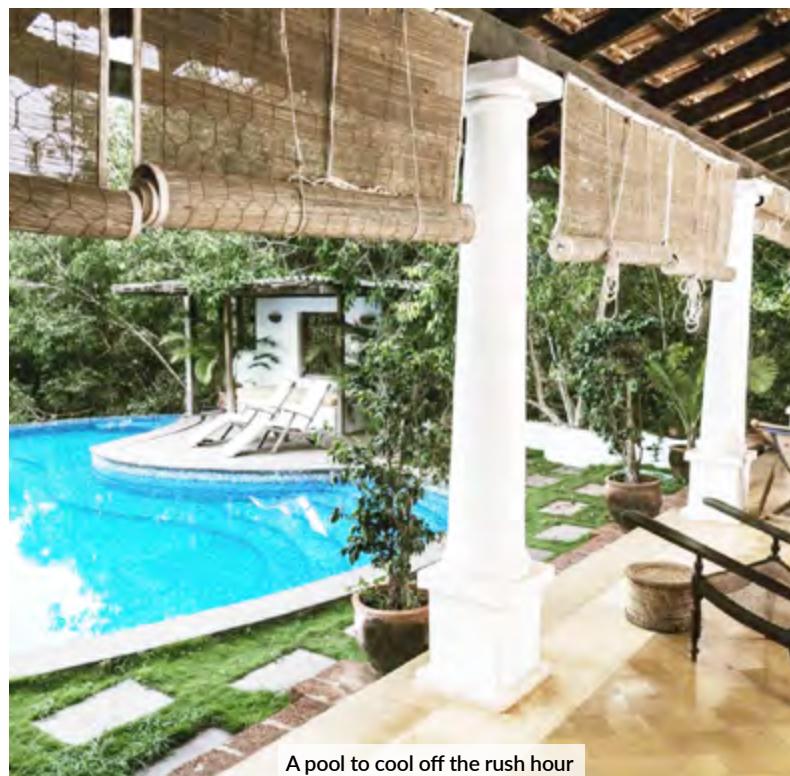
A luxurious bathroom with a tub to bathe in your blues away



A verandah for your thoughts to explore

We believe that there is no better host than nature itself. And when you get an opportunity to choose a homestay beautifully nestled amidst a lush green forest on top of a hill in Parra, how can you refuse such hospitality.

Capella Forest Retreat and Homestay is an eco-homestay mindfully built to be inclusive rather than exclusive with nature. The owner – Ayesha – took tender care will building this retreat, keeping environment regeneration in mind. Their vision is clear – make Capella a homestay that gives it's guests the comfort and peace amidst the lush greens of Goa.



A pool to cool off the rush hour



Mindful living with nature @Capella

UNITY WITH ENVIRONMENT

Capella Forest Retreat and Homestay is minimum waste premise. Following zero-plastic use, they are making a conscious effort to abide by the pro-environment regulations. The eco-homestay aims at inspiring the guests that living a 'conscious or sustainable lifestyle' is possible anywhere, even in the cities.

LIVING @ CAPELLA

With three stunning bedrooms, a pool, and a unique homestay experience, will make you fall in love with the quaint villages that surrounds it. Sipping on a martini or a simple lemonade by the pool gives a whole new meaning here. And when the host gives you company, the conversations and the experience takes a wonderous turn. It's like you are shifted into a different world where time moves at a slow pace, and smallest of detail around you is admirable.

The retreat is a real treat for vacationers. The large living room with high-ceiling opens onto a central courtyard filled with tropical plants and a fishpond. The interior of the house is a visual treat adorning books, photographs and lamps placed aesthetically. The living room opens into the front veranda that overlooks the swimming pool. Here the guests can lounge on comfortable cane furniture and watch the mesmerizing view of the hills and beyond. The premise is fur-friendly, so you can have a real vacay with your entire family including pets.

More visual treat – the garden is filled with flowering trees and plants that attract an amazing variety of birds

and butterflies. There is every chance of you seeing a number of bird species including peacocks, sunbirds, hornbills, kingfishers and the resident paradise flycatcher without stirring from the shade of your veranda! Don't be surprised if a monkey pays a visit, along with few nocturnal mates like a porcupines or civet cats.

ROOMS

Magnolia: a luxurious room on the first floor that overlooks a manicured courtyard, and has a private balcony.

Heliconia: a large, airy room on the first floor overlooking the swimming pool and hills and fields beyond.

Jacaranda: a cosy little room on the ground floor for solo visitors, couples or families with elderlies.

So, there are ample reasons why Capella Forest Retreat and Homestay should be on your 'places to stay' list for your next Goa trip. It's a perfect getaway.

Pro-tip: Close proximity to Anjuna, Anjuna, Assagao and Vagator.

Website: www.capellagoa.com



A soul comforting bedroom

Cabo Serai

Eco Resort, Canagunim

Overlooking the vast Arabian Sea, from the popular Cabo De Rama cliff, Cabo Serai is the penultimate destination resort property, when it comes to doing all things eco-conscious. Every element at the property, right from its designing, architecture, to the food served, and the experiences curated here, are an attempt to blend in with the natural surroundings around.

Spread over 14 acres of lush green hills, and with luxury

wooden cabins and tents, perched 100 feet above on the hills, the view from your rooms, is literally one to die for. Each room offers unparalleled luxury, and expansive views of the Arabian Sea. Luxury does not have to come at the cost of nature, and Cabo Serai as an eco-resort, communicates this in every possible way.

Every natural element which was originally present at the property, has been preserved or highlighted in some way or the

other. For instance, once at the gates of the property, travelers have to cross a wooden bridge over a freshwater spring which literally mesmerizes through its sheer beauty and strong sounds. The welcome drink is served in carved out coconut shells, setting the tone for an offbeat eco-friendly resort stay.

The rooms are thoughtfully curated and are in sync with the nature outside; the property in true essence gives back to nature more than it takes from it. The use of coconut shells to plant trees all around the property, and within the rooms is just one example of making the most of what nature is offering here.

Food at Cabo Serai has been curated keeping in mind the philosophy of farm-to-table. Be it the appetizing yet healthy Zucchini Pasta or the variety of cold soups or even the mouthwatering chocolate mousse, everything is freshly prepared from ingredients sourced locally. With a vast area of cashew plantation, the Goan Cashew is given its pride of place in the meals cooked.

The beach is just a short walk away downhill. A must do activity is Forest Bathing, which essentially involves a silent walk on the slopes along the property meandering through the stream, coconut grove, cashew plantations and



The property is a no plastic zone, and relies heavily on copper & glass utensils.



Lounge on a cane chair, another natural material as you overlook the greenery around.



Rooms at Cabo Serai



Pro tip: Go for breathtaking views of the Arabian Sea

Website: <https://caboserai.com>

Food is served in coconut shells, glass utensils, to avoid plastic completely

The Postcard Hideaway, Netravali

Nestled among the lush green hills of Netravali in South Goa, The Postcard Hideaway is “the” property to check in at, if you want to enjoy a slice of the “Superlum Sobit Goa”. With only 20 wood cabins, spread around 20 acres of property, you get to be in a totally quiet space of your own, while staying right in the middle of a wildlife sanctuary.

If you are seeking solitude, while still staying in touch with all things’ luxury, there is no better option in the state right now. Each room is designed

in such a way, that it blends with the natural surroundings around. With the resort’s emphasis on preserving nature, you are welcomed to a room, which is not just entirely made of the natural material of wood, but also pays close attention to every detail to reduce carbon footprints. For example, glass water bottles, no plastic cutlery, digitized bills, etc. are just some little ways in which the property is trying to minimize resource wastage.

Each room at this hideaway,

comes with its own wooden deck which overlooks, acres and acres of lush green Netravali hills and wildlife sanctuary. With zero mobile network at the property (WIFI on the property is beyond excellent), you have the perfect excuse to switch off for the duration of your stay. The swimming pool at the property provides an unhindered view of the green oasis beyond, and indeed invites you to abandon all worries while just enjoying yourself.

There is also a beautiful



Soak in the pool right in the lap of nature at The Postcard Hideaway



Take a walk around the property



The driveway at The Postcard Hideaway

relaxing zone next to the pool, and also the only place at the entire property where you can watch television; which according to me is a bliss because if you are to truly claim that you are doing your bit for the nature while vacationing, you need to keep the television viewing to the minimum. Go for treks / cycle around on the well laid out red-stone paths throughout the day, and make sure to call an electric buggy after dark, since you are staying in the jungle. For the spa lovers, not only do you have a luxurious spa, but you also have a very private jacuzzi in the middle of the wilderness.

At The Postcard Hideaway, right from the moment you walk in, the food (& drinks), which are served, are an attempt to stay true to the local Goan heritage, and most of the produce served here, is locally sourced. When we talk about eco-stays, an integral part of it is about minimizing the carbon footprints that come with sourcing foreign produce, and storing large quantities of raw food. At Postcard, while almost any edible item under

the sun can be sourced for your pleasure, the emphasis is to push the local cuisine & locally sourced food on the menu; and everything is sourced fresh and cooked fresh, thus avoiding food wastage.

With a concept of anytime breakfast, the resort also does away with the very often not-so-pleasant breakfast buffets. And everything that you can find at a buffet, is served fresh in smaller portions by itself on the breakfast table. Being ecologically conscious is also about eating mindfully, and this is a habit you easily pick on at, at this beautiful property.

So, if you are looking for staying close to nature, and without doing any harm to the bounty around you, The Postcard Hideaway at Netravali, is the most luxurious opportunity you will ever get to do that.

Pro tip: Go for excursions around to the nearby Netravali jungle, soak in the waterfalls, or visit the strawberry farm.

Website: <https://www.postcardresorts.com/hotels/the-postcard-hideaway-goa>



The Postcard Hideaway, Netravali



The perfect cozy reading cum family zone at the property

Red Crab Eco-Resort, Cabo de Rama

Built in 2018, the resort was developed in an ecological style where the cottages blend in with the natural surroundings, and have been built only using earth friendly materials. Each room opens to a breathtaking view, and the overall property aims to minimize its carbon footprints by using as many eco-conscious practices as possible. This fairly new resort is also making all attempts to serve fresh and organic food at its in-house restaurant. Equipped with all modern amenities, at its core the resort's philosophy is to value and

treasure nature, in all its glory.

Overlooking the breathtaking Arabian Sea from every location possible, opt for a stay at the Red Crab when you want to just relax with the sea literally around you, and when you also don't want to feel guilty about mindless consumption.

Pro tip: Near the popular Cabe de rama fort, and perfect for sunset views.

Website: <https://www.redcrabecoresort.com>



Stay options at Red Crab are environment friendly



Conclusion:

There are several other properties which also offer unique eco-stay options in Goa, a trend which is fast catching and hopefully, is here to stay as travelers become more discerning with their choices.

Mangaal Farmstay, at Quepem offers slow living options, like farm-to-table culinary experiences, an opportunity to try your hand at farming, or even connect with the local community during your stay in Goa. With

experiences like community dining, meditation and wellbeing events, opportunity to lounge by the stream, and more, this is a unique eco-stay that should be on every traveler's list.

Bhakti Kutir, a health and nature resort, located in the popular beach belt of Palolem, is a resort that spans across two acres of coconut grove. It offers a stay in unique cabanas, designed using local materials like rice straw and bamboo. The restaurant serves

fresh, local and seasonal food, and focuses on avoiding excessively processed and genetically modified produce. Ideal for when you are looking at experiencing an organic life, while staying with the modern comforts, Bhakti Kutir is the go-to place for Yoga, meditation and ayurvedic practices.

So go ahead, take your pick and enjoy your vacation while consciously saving the nature too.



PAPER MOON: An Italian Voyage

TAJ FORT AGUADA RESORT & SPA, GOA

THE Taj has been known for epicurean excellence for over a century, introducing the country to a host of global cuisines and culinary experiences. We were the pioneers of International cuisine in India and have been

the first to bring global chefs and iconic International brands to the country. Continuing this legacy, we are delighted to bring the iconic restaurant Paper Moon from Milan to Goa presenting the city with the authentic taste of honest

Italian food.

Goa has become a gourmands paradise with a host of independent restaurants and nationally acclaimed chains starting outlets here. Paper Moon has already crafted a name across the globe for

excellence. Now, with its first outpost in India, we have already captured the market in Goa and are delighted to have become a popular culinary destination for our discerning patrons.

Paper Moon is driving audiences from the independent bars and restaurants in the city as it is centrally located in the heart of North Goa. With this flagship outlet, we are catering to the tourists and locals too and not only concentrating on our in-house clientele which is usually the norm amongst five-star properties. The impeccable service associated with The Taj and the culinary prowess of Paper Moon has already been welcomed and appreciated by the locals. We will be expanding our reach with this new eatery.

Paper Moon is an elegant restaurant that offers cuisine served to Milanese locals and several international travellers. The refined location combines interiors with clean green and warm lighting. Long before farm-to-table was a trend, it was the way of life of most

Italian families, they pay attention to raw ingredients and ways of preparing that makes all the difference to the dish. Taking advantage of the fresh produce available in Goa, we are determined to serve the best of our signature dishes which will transport your heart to Italy. This same simplicity and balance of taste define our restaurant's concept: matching a few perfectly chosen ingredients with the techniques and precision necessary to turn a dish into a true sensory experience. We pair our dishes with signature drinks to make sure each element pairs well together. Our Tartare di Salmone Marinato which is marinated Salmon Tartare with avocado, cucumber, and tomato coulis pairs perfectly with Sparkling Rosé wine. Our homemade cheese ravioli with Piedmont truffle cream pairs perfectly with the Chardonnay. An ode to Goa, our grilled

prawns with roasted bell peppers and parsley will leave you salivating for more.



prawns with roasted bell peppers and parsley will leave you salivating for more.

The restaurant's exquisite cellar collection of premium wines from around the globe best compliment our striking Italian flavours. Our wine list typically includes a wide selection of white wine from the Friuli - Venezia Giulia and Veneto regions as well as Piedmont and Tuscany for the reds. Our cocktails list is divided into seasonal cocktails, Italian cocktails, and international cocktails. Our international drinks are then subdivided into classical and signature drinks. There is something for everyone. Our cafeteria offers a wide range of coffees and speciality hot drinks which are perfect against the crashing waves of the ocean. We work with coffee machines and coffee brands that are synonymous with Italian quality and thus are able to serve top-quality coffees throughout the year.

We plan to play host to elegant private events and offer many different attractive setups to consider based on the size of the party and occasion. We





are dedicated to making each business, social, or personal event memorable and suited to your needs.

Born out of love for honest Italian cuisine, Paper Moon stands as a beacon of authenticity among its peers. In each of our locations, we have committed to always combine experience, research, rigor, and creativity while never forgetting the sense of awe each of us felt in our nonnas kitchen, where everything always begins. The alfresco transports you to a vintage Italian garden in a new-age setting. Tourist-forward destination with an established global brand offering exquisite Italian dining at an iconic property - Taj Fort Aguada Resort & Spa. This new upscale restaurant will be an experience like no other!





HOUSE OF NOMAD

TAJ HOLIDAY VILLAGE RESORT & SPA, GOA

THE House of Nomad draws inspiration from the life of a wanderer, always moving, adapting, and innovating. It is bohemian and warm with exposed walls, Edison bulbs, and a chalkboard with specials written on it. Life is undoubtedly a journey, one that is best taken with friends, food, and fine spirits for companions. Taj Holiday

Village's new gastrobar - The House of Nomad, is the perfect destination to discover everything in abundance.

Uniting beer guzzlers, wine connoisseurs and malt mavens, there is something for all kinds of parched souls. It offers a taste of the world with its selection of innovative cocktails and wines from across the globe, including Australia, New Zealand, France, America,

Italy, Argentina, and Chile. Sitting at the epicentre of Taj Village's Goa's newly-launched House of Nomad is the perfect oasis in the heart of this vibrant destination, providing travellers with the ideal hub for camaraderie, conversations, cocktails, and cuisines.

House of Nomad, which focuses on using local produce to cater to unfussy eaters and pure foodies alike, has a range

of dishes like French fries Okonomiyaki dusted with gun powder and curry leaves, Crispy Calamari with chili garlic, Chorizo sliders with pineapple slaw that will take your palate on a culinary trip of its own! Some of our other specials tributes to Goa include Pepper Tenderloin Steak, Prawn Curry and Vietnamese Bahn Mi.

Our cocktails list is divided into cultural cocktails, land & locale cocktails, classic cocktails and community cocktails. Some of our specials include Sinquerim Sour where we used kokam infused vodka, The Time Traveller with passion fruit and Amber Snap made with a ginger honey syrup. The Mariposa with butterfly pea infused Tanqueray, white wine, and elderflower is the most refreshing.

House of Nomad is filled with life's unexpected experiences – initially surprising but ultimately intriguing. We want to keep our guests curious and excited

for "what's next?" at every step of their journey. The flavours we produce and elixirs we concoct are familiar yet surprising; close to the heart yet far from home. Just as nomads of old sojourned, from place to place finding a home, our food and drink creations take you on a sensory journey filled with adventure. Every step of your journey at House of Nomad brings with it excitement and a true sense of place. We don't just want to be a hotel "destination bar" - at House of Nomad, we live to bring destinations to you. The House of Nomad works as both a destination and a short halt, where the travellers can celebrate impermanence or life itself.

There is something for everyone #youbelonghere



Let the good vibes roll with “Juju”

Reimagine the way you engage with Indian cuisine at Juju, a restaurant attempting to serve traditional Indian cuisine in the most imaginative avatars.



IMAGES: SHOBHIKAJAJU & BY THE RESTAURANT

An ode to the regional cuisines and ingredients of India, the essence of the food & drinks at Juju, South Goa's latest fine dining restaurant and bar, is, at its heart, modern, in preparation & presentation, alike.

Launched by brother-sister duo, Raghav Bahl & Bhavna Bahl Talwar, the owners of the popular Beleza by The Beach resort in Colva, the menu of this vibrant new place has been

designed by celebrated Goan Chef Avinash Martins.

What stands out for the menu at Juju, is the ode that the restaurant pays to each and every region of India, with unique preparations from across the different states. Be it the *tofu samosa*, or the *achari bhutta spring roll*, for the vegetarians; or the *Betul mussels*, and the *Kerala spiced rawas*, for the non-vegetarians, there is no denying the fact that this is a menu curated with

a lot of background research about the regional produce native to the many parts of India.

The drinks menu at Juju's bar has been deliciously crafted by Russian mixologist Evgenya Prazdnik. Each drink on the menu, derives inspiration from a different state of Goa & highlights at least one core ingredient which reminds the connoisseur of that state. For example, the 'Jasmine' drink, *Sandras Spiritz*, takes





Kasundi Snapper

you to Tamil Nadu, with just a look at the drink & a whiff of it; the 'Jamun' based *Dilli 6* drink, takes you to those summer afternoons of Delhi (North India), chewing on juicy jamuns soaked in tangy spices. The non-alcoholic drinks at the restaurant are also flavourful and made with as much passion, as their alcoholic counterparts. The guava (*peru*) smash, is a must try (also available in its alcoholic avatar). And each drink is a sheer delight to look at; so keep your cameras (& smiles) ready.

No Indian meal ends without

a good dessert & Juju also offers innovative desserts to satiate that Indian sweet tooth. We had the *tender coconut rasmalai*, which was a delight for our taste buds and visual – aromatic senses. The melt in your mouth bite sized *rasmalai* accompanied by coconut biscuits was just what was needed to end the perfect Saturday night dinner.

Designed by Architect, & Interior Designer, Samiir Wheaton, the overall aesthetic of the place, interiors and exteriors combined, is rooted in the Goan theme of openness, earthy colours, and also stands apart for its wide windows, modern lighting, and that comforting vibe which directs its patrons to just abandon all worries and chill. The ambience is further highlighted

by live music on most days of the week.

Some other quick points to note include the child friendliness of the place, ample of seating space, both indoors and outdoors and the overall airy open vibe to the place. Also, the service was quick, and with enough people waiting around the tables, dining at Juju, was a breeze on a busy Saturday night.

So, the next time you are in South Goa, do check out its latest gem, and don't forget to call out your friends for that "good juju".



Betul Muscles

It's time to have an affair with your donuts !

South Goa's latest dessert hotspot is a cute little homegrown donut shop, which can give the biggies a run for their money. While devouring a few of these rounded delicacies, Shobhika Jaju writes about "The Donut Affair".

IMAGES- THE DONUT AFFAIR



IN more recent times, Goa has been flooded with some of the best international brands, in almost all categories, including major international food chains. There is, however, a different charm to those generation old bakeries, hidden in the prettiest of nooks & corners across the state. "The Donut Affair", doesn't fit into any of these two categories. It's a breakthrough, and creating a space of its own, in the freshly baked dessert market.

What started as a venture from their home kitchen, by a mother-son duo, as a quest to bring mouth-watering donuts to the Goan community, has slowly expanded to a retail shop of its own. Ashish Nakate, the brain behind "The Donut Affair", and the chef who bakes these decadent donuts, used to personally deliver the freshly baked goodies when this journey started. Helped by his mom, you can now see the duo at work at their newly opened kitchen which is connected to

the retail store. Just visualize it yourself; hot and fresh donuts oozing out with the different fillings, which you can just pop right into your mouth.

When it comes to the flavors, this donut heaven, has a wide variety of them. While the traditional flavors like chocolate double trouble, Nutella tease, strawberry cream, ring donuts, etc. are available through the year, they also have limited edition flavors often introduced as per ingredient availability or to mark a festive season. Offbeat flavors like lavender, kiwi cream, heaven berry, make this



place stand out and ensure that you never run out of flavors to try.

Oh, and what's more? They also offer mini-donuts on order in those very many flavors, for the times when you want to indulge that sweet tooth but not go all out; or maybe for when you want to try all of the flavors without committing to a single one!

Going by their Instagram account, it's very clear that if you don't reach in time, or place your orders ahead, you might miss out on your favorite flavors, as the donuts are baked fresh every single day.

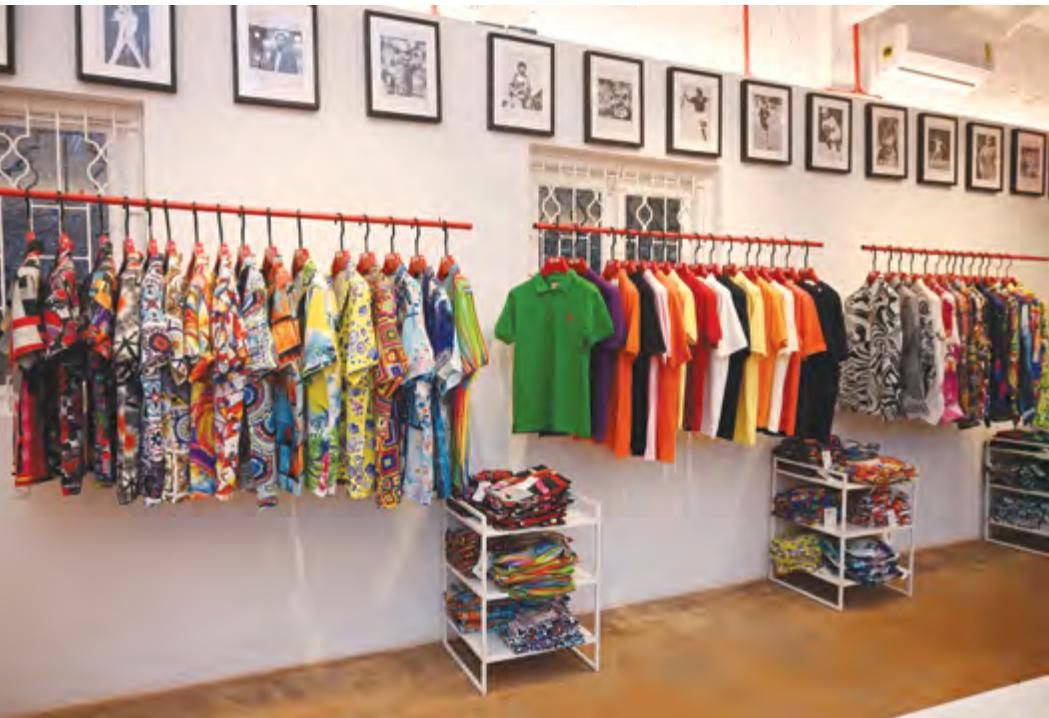
Your quest for that perfect donut, with a cup of coffee (if you prefer), ends at "The Donut Affair".

NAD

The Men's Store

NAD – The Men's fashion store, recently launched in Goa, is the brainchild of Naresh Ravindranath. The store launch was a great event. There was music, drinks and some fantastic finger food. Many known faces from fashion world of Goa attended the event. One could see Naresh's vision reflecting design aesthetics of the store. It goes to say how much heart and effort he has put into NAD in retaining a simplistic Goan look with a touch of contemporary design.

Naresh spent two decades in a different and unrelated



industry, and lived between Dubai, Hong Kong and Mumbai, and finally decided to follow his long time passion and dream. He moved to Goa during the pandemic and worked on his vision which came to fruition on the 28th of Jan 2023. He opened the doors to his clothing store in Assagao. This store is one of a kind as it is the only store in Goa exclusively for men. The products found here are shirts, t-shirts, shorts and caps, and more varieties that will be released in the near future. Naresh always had a great fashion sense and a personality that is bold, vibrant, loud and wild; which is clearly reflected in all the clothes that



he designs. Each design is repeated only 15 times so rest assured there's a low chance of bumping into someone in the same fit as you, which is also part of his mission to create something that is unique when compared to most existing labels for men's wear. The fabric used is mostly cotton and linen, which is sourced from different parts of India and is perfect for the weather in Goa, with a style that works for a brunch party, a sundowner event or an evening get together. You can find their store in Assagao, right next to Mustard Café and is most definitely a great option for the men to get their swag on.



Yellow Moon Café



AMIDST chaotic Calangute there is charming and cozy little café, owned and being run by Chef Donovan Fernandes, who is a graduate from WGSNA, Manipal, along with incredible support from his parents. He always had a fondness for food and a good hand at creating kitchen magic, and made it his profession.

After spending a few years working as the starting team in a Japanese restaurant in Kuwait, to running a little restaurant in Kodaikanal with his friend, he decided to come back to Goa and start something of his own in his home town. A local family

business and brand, this café came into being in the latter part of 2019 and already has frequent visitors and favorite orders. One of the main specialties of this café is the coffee, since Chef Donovan gets international and local coffee beans, grinds them and makes blends himself. They even have the nespresso coffee capsule machine! They've got some super snacks like chocolate eclairs, mini cheesecakes, rum balls (which is one of the known favorites), tuna cutlets and pan rolls, to name a few. The vibe is relaxed and comfortable, you almost forget about all the racket you experienced



before walking in. There is always good music, tunes that everyone can relate to while enjoying their goodies, and soft lights. The interiors were designed by him and his sister who is an architect, and has a nice minimal yet wholesome feel. Another specialty is their “second menu” which includes all the delectable, local dishes which are made to order; and has foods like xacuti, caldine, prawn curry and sorpotel (lots of vegetarian options, too). The café even caters to different events and has done so in the form of snack boxes or whole meals. It’s always great to know and delight in something that is authentic, made at home and made with lots of love which is noticeably echoed in their consumables. A must visit for truly great coffee and a happy tummy when in Goa and can be found in Calangute, on the parallel road before the beach.



Itadakimasu

Banzai! The sushi and Sashimi dive bomb our palates with umami explosions as our tastebuds surrender to the delicate, balanced flavors of Japan. The land of Sun Sand and Sea is today pleasantly inundated with tantalizing food-fare which originates from the land of the rising sun. To a Japanophile like me this all feels like dreaming of the Sakura blooms in spring. Here's a list of the top 10 restaurants offering the Japanese experience to its Goan patrons and tourists.

TEXT: MONTY SALLY

IMAGES: RESTAURANTS MENTIONED HERE

Saké The Asian Lounge

Is it a ramp? When will the show start? who are the models? The bar at Saké does resemble a fashion ramp with its circular imposing lights but the models do arrive and the show does happen but not the way you'd think. Saké gives the feel of a Japanese night club and further adds theatricality to every Food and beverage served. Each siplicious cocktail is dramatic as it lands on the bar counter so here's introducing the models for the evening "Saké Mahö", "You give me Butterflies", "Ume Negroni", "Un-fig-gettable old fashioned", "Zakuro Kiss" all this makes me feel "So Matcha better". You can wind down the highs with scintillating Sushi ranging from the classic to innovations like blue pea flower roll with blue pea infused rice or move to the deconstructed signature sushi " Sushi on Crack ". Saké is Just "Yabai!" Enjoy!



Makutsu



Makutsu or a den of thieves in Japanese aims to give its clientele a feel of a smokey, sake sipping Japanese night dive "the Izakaya experience" minus the yakuza of course. The visual of this restaurant seems to embrace you with its simplicity as the open kitchen hibachi of this grill house drums out the most varied and succulent cuts of yakitori and lots of scrumptious others. Welcome to your table succulent Chicken oyster, drool-worthy Beef tongue, exquisite Salmon ponzu or let a local ingredient like "tambdi bhaji" woo you in its Japanese avatar called "Red Spinach Gomae", while you unwind with cooling thirst quenchers like Yuzu lemonade and Melon Sodas.



Shiori

With wide open doors and tiled roofs Shiori just screams out Yōkoso. This rustic century old dig could entice a samurai warrior to sheathe his katana and trot in for a tipple. The minimalist vibe lulls you into a calming mindscape until the food and drinks arrive screaming out elevated excellence playing both to your culinary sensibilities and visual appetite. Plates with pork char sui, bacon wrapped prawn and asparagus find their way to your table which are delectable. The solutions for a parched throat exist in the form of Gin and T (with hibiscus tea), Japan Meets Siolim (martini starring amla vermouth), choya (Japanese plum liqueur) but don't miss out on Dora Dora a Doremon inspired drizzle for your throat. If you ever find yourself in Siolim take a peek at Shiori it will surely grab you.



Yaki Zushi



Dipping down from Porvorim plateau into Sangolda one sees a heritage Indo-Portuguese house painted in confounding crimson. This is Yaki Zushi a restaurant that perhaps single handedly brought Japanese cuisine from its pretentious heights to the masses of Goa with all you can eat and unlimited sushi festivals attracting youth with young healthy appetites and a penchant for discovering cuisines around the globe. Yaki Zushi sheds pretense but not Quality as it whets the appetites of even the most voracious eaters with about 25-30 varieties of Sushi depending on the season. Try the regular classic rolls or what the teppenyaki grill has to offer while you indulge in an oriental Martini.



Kofuku

Happiness welfare well being at the heart of what Kofuku stands for, the open fields of Parra forms the backdrop of this restaurant that aims to serve its guests the true taste of Japan this is backing this goal is the mother companies vast experience in importing Japanese food products and ingredients to cater to the Japanese expats in India. The restaurant with its wood tones seems warm and welcoming and one glance at the menu makes you realise their genuine desire to be authentic rather than innovative. The ministrations of the team at Kofuku is aimed at Perfecting the Japanese experience with culinary experiences like "Oh my God sushi", a signature flaming sushi of salmon, tuna, yellowtail and avocado drizzled with a special sauce, other offerings like Yaki Goyza, Miso Ramen will hit the sweet spot too. Sip on a Japanese whiskey and let the easy vibe envelop you.



Sakana

Sakana at first glance seems unassuming with a semi enclosed industrial shed like structure amidst an open garden. But once you settle down and notice the Japanese iconography, Sakura bloom visuals, the expanse of the space, the indoor-outdoor feel you cozy up to order your taste of Japan. Sakana exists only to serve its clientele Japanese food in a Zen like calm atmosphere, the open Kitchen works silently to create delectable bites which are a combination of Japanese street and home fare. The only noises one can hear are the flavorful explosions in your cranium, time for Food bliss with Sushi, Sashimi, Katsu downed with a shot of warm sake.



Roboto

Who is Roboto? He is a robot who wears his heart on his face and gets comfy in a kimono and represents his namesake restaurant in Anjuna. This Izakaya style restaurant aims to placate your food cravings while also going green with a minimal carbon footprint. The many windows allow plenty of sun in and the light spackled blue walls aim to give food lovers the "komorebi" feel, the feeling of oneness with nature. Roboto does not skimp on its palette pleasing pursuits with delicacies that are sometimes familiar and sometimes surprising. Tune in to a bento box experience, slurp some udon/Ramen, bite into some Onigiri or Gyoza and wait for the bar to serve you its handcrafted cocktails.



Matcha

Japanese decor or iconography zilch, Japanese vibe nada; Matcha does not look like much, in fact visually it looks like a local Goan family run fish curry joint. The humor is in the fact that it is a Japanese family run Japanese restaurant and it runs on the principle of "Iburo o tsukamu" literally "to grab someone by their stomach" to simply put it impress with your Cooking. The plating does not distinguish itself in any way in fact it feels like home, the food too probably tastes like home in one of the prefectures in Japan. Start with some authentic sushi then choose a rice bowl or udon and that too in some comfy shorts, T shirt and slippers because to be in Matcha you don't feel the necessity to dress up. Stretch out comfortably in your chair and while away the Balmynoon sipping a Matcha cooler.



Izumi

It's payday you are flush, time to head Izumi at the lush boutique guesthouse Botanique in Assagao Goa and let your culinary craving's cruise at an ambrosial altitude you are unlikely to ever forget. Indoor outdoor spaces merge in the palm frond shadows of this poolside food Heaven. This restaurant to me seems like a paradox in the sense that the feel and decor of the place is minimal but the menu exact in its execution to the point it plays ostentatious. You can make a beeline to the dedicated fired up yakitori Bar, Order from an expansive list of small plates, chow on some delicate Nigiri or let the bar program beguile you into consuming a tad bit more alcohol than your quota with cocktails starring Shiso leaves, Sakura cordial, miso washed whiskey and Yuzu-Kosho Japanese Lime.

Tkyo:

This 200-year-old Indo-Portuguese villa redecorated to house a Japanese restaurant is a Japanophiles wet dream. A 20-foot hand painted sumo sculpture stands near a torii gate reminding guests to eat like a Sumo Wrestler. The outdoor bar is reminiscent of the work of legendary architect Kenji Soma and on the other side of the bar is a wall like installation of over 200 Sake barrels. I could go on but I'll leave it up to the reader to discover the multisensory experience of the space. Aim your chopsticks at Japanese influenced small plates, Ramens, Yakitori Sushi rolls and Nigiris, Say Kampai! at the bar that shuns anything artificial or synthetic and works on delicate infusions. The curtain closer would be the visually stunning "Sakura Tree dessert" a candy floss tree with chocolate bark and citrus crumble, Cherry blossom mousse, and Asahi cherry jelly.



These Japanese haunts are my dream team which leave you saying Sugo! Gochisōsama desu.

SIROI LIFESTYLE STORE, GOA

Siroi means 'a rare lily', found only in Manipur in north-eastern India. The rare flower's beauty and meaning reflect in the entire opulence of the store. The store has a unique and contemporary collection of merchandise whose sole purpose is to redefine the beauty of the space in which it sits.

TEXT: NIDHI LALL
IMAGES: SIROI LIFESTYLE STORE



SIROI lifestyle store opened in Parra in April 2022. Since then, art lovers all over Goa have thronged to this beautiful store to see their admirable collection. There are many things to look at and be amazed by, like ceramics, pottery, rugs, home

decor, hand-painted artefacts, and stylized clothing. Sapna Kabra's exquisitely designed jackets and dresses from Kunbi sarees are also available. Among these are stunning beaded jewellery pieces, curated home decor, bags, shawls, and shoes. A store that speaks art is just apt for a place

where art is embraced and loved.

NEW COLLECTION @ SIROI

Soon to be launched is a new category – Furniture by Siroi. The newest addition to its unique collection is vintage, classic, and timeless wooden furniture, which will soon adorn the store. The furniture is meticulously restored, keeping the old feel alive without compromising modern-day functionality. Carved wooden mirrors, writing desks, and dining tables are just a few of the many items soon to be seen in the store.

Table Lamps is yet another addition to Siroi's impressive collection. Blue ceramic Table Lamps will add to the prettiness of your home. Read a book near it or admire its good looks; the lamp collection is worth a buy.

THE ARTEFACTS @ SIROI

Those who have visited

the store will vouch for its beautiful and worth-buying collection. The paintings by various artists, the Frida collection that has won many hearts, and the bamboo and jute baskets are simple yet make a statement. African masks and pure brass warriors are essential features of traditional African culture. Others include footwear, artistic and intrinsic jewellery, stylish ethnic and contemporary clothing for men and women, and sculpture. All of these will make a perfect addition to your home.

THE STORE

Sapna Kabra's dream and vision is to collect traditional and contemporary art and artefacts from all over India and bring them together under one roof. The store is meant for art lovers and admirers. The store itself is a statement. It is an old heritage place once owned by the Miranda family. It gave away nostalgia after its restoration to full glory by Alinto Coelho. The rustic

old walls, gorgeous windows and little elements here and there have embraced a diverse collection curated by the Kabras.

Just like the Siroi Hills, where the rarest of the rare Siroi lily is found, Sapna envisions Siroi Goa as the place where unique creations find their way into the homes of art lovers across the globe.



Around Goa in 9 Food Trucks!

Over the last decade, the culinary landscape of cities and towns all over the world has been transformed by a new kind of street food purveyor, the gourmet food trucks.

FOUND on the streets from London to La Paz, in India, from New Delhi to Kochi and Ahmedabad to Kolkata, and everywhere in between, these plates are served at street prices, with no prerequisites of booking or dress code, they cater to connoisseurs who are more interested in taste than the formal trappings of

restaurant life. Fun, local and affordable, they are also an easy way for the gourmands to sample delicacies from the other side of the world, and for visitors to get involved in the region's food scene.

The food trucks in Goa offer appetizing comfort food of varied cuisines, local and global, and of exquisite quality. The food trucks adhere to the

textbook nutritional diktats of eating fresh, local and seasonal. While the food truck scene is still heating up in the rest of the country, Goa has extensively embraced it and even given it a strong provincial twist. Here is a checklist of some of the best food trucks in Goa.

NORONHA'S CORNER AT ASSAGAO – ANJUNA CROSSING

A food truck decorated with animated cartoon characters may not seem a likely spot to grab traditional Goan fare, but the three brothers who manage Noronha's Corner know the art of food. The menu is separated into four sections: beef, chicken, pork, and fish. This is not the place for vegetarians. If you can't decide, the brothers are quick to suggest their favorites, including beef croquettes, Goan sausages, chicken cafreal, fish cutlets, and sorpatel. Everything is dynamite, and the prices are very reasonable. People from all walks of life, from teenagers to families, can be found on the line that forms as soon as the awning opens every evening around 7.30 p.m. However, given their popularity remember that if you reach very late, they often run out of various eats.



SERIAL GRILLERS AT ANJUNA

Parked off a vacant field in a cosy corner in Anjuna, opposite the La Bella restaurant, Serial Grillers announces its presence before it is seen. The delightful aromas of the grills wafting out of the peppy orange truck and the sound of the sizzling meat is hard to resist. They serve delectable American staples like burgers, beef patties, grilled vegetables, chilly hot dogs, and even a Philly Cheesesteak, straight off the grill!

They do an epic Agent 47 burger with the choice of a chicken or a beef patty, chicken wings, wraps - both veg and non veg and the crowd favourite, monster burger that comes loaded with cheese, 3 meat patties and an egg. The za'atar roasted veggie wrap comes as a pleasant surprise from them, who have sworn forever love to burgers.

Luiton, the affable owner, runs Serial Grillers from about 7pm to 10pm. The beef patties and veggies grill and simmer under his watchful eye and he makes sure you are full by the time you leave.



JERRY'S FOOD TRUCK AT BAMBOLIM

Painted pretty in black and crimson flames, representing their piquant burgers and shawarmas, Jerry's Food Truck has found fame for its odoriferous shawarmas, gigantic burgers, savoury chicken wings, fries and crispy wraps.

Their star performers are their burgers, massive and juicy, with either a vegetarian or non-vegetarian patty stacked with caramelised onion, fresh lettuce, peppery dips, and melting cheese to top it up.

Proprietor Clarence Hendricks runs the place from 6-11 pm, six days a week, near GMC Hospital at Bambolim, dishing up these divine delicacies.



HEERA'S MARUTI AT ANJUNA

Stationed near Starco Junction at Anjuna, a simple, unassuming food truck serves the biggest, tastiest baguettes and wraps late into the night. That is Heera's Maruti, a favourite among the party junkies on the bustling Anjuna scene, which is open till about 7am during peak season or until 4am in the monsoons.



Maruti, the chef and owner cooks with olive oil and the freshest of ingredients, whipping up delectable but inexpensive wraps and baguettes. The wholegrain bread as well as his trademark sauces are all homemade. The regulars swear by his scrumptious monster chicken baguette and the exquisite homemade sauces.



ALANKAR THEATRE FOOD STREET AT MAPUSA

The curtains fell on the iconic Alankar Theatre a few years ago, but the street comes alive with lively and abounding food stalls and trucks as the evening sets in. The street in the heart of Mapusa is the go-to place for late night binges post a pub night or a party.

The whole street comes alive only in the evenings, with different food stalls setting shop. You will mostly find Chinese food stalls here, but there are also Goan and Tandoori food stalls if that's your jam. And they have

vendors serving juices and milkshakes too. In fact, the street is buzzing and crowded till about 2am every night.



RAVI'S RAS GADDO AT PANJIM

Ros Omelette personifies the quintessential Goan street food. This humble, unpretentious but flavourful staple traces its origins to the need for using up the Xacuti curry cooked for the preceding night's dinner. The thrifty Goan households had a hearty breakfast of fluffy omelette with freshly baked pao, topped with the curry, adding it a distinct character and making it into a nourishing, morning meal.

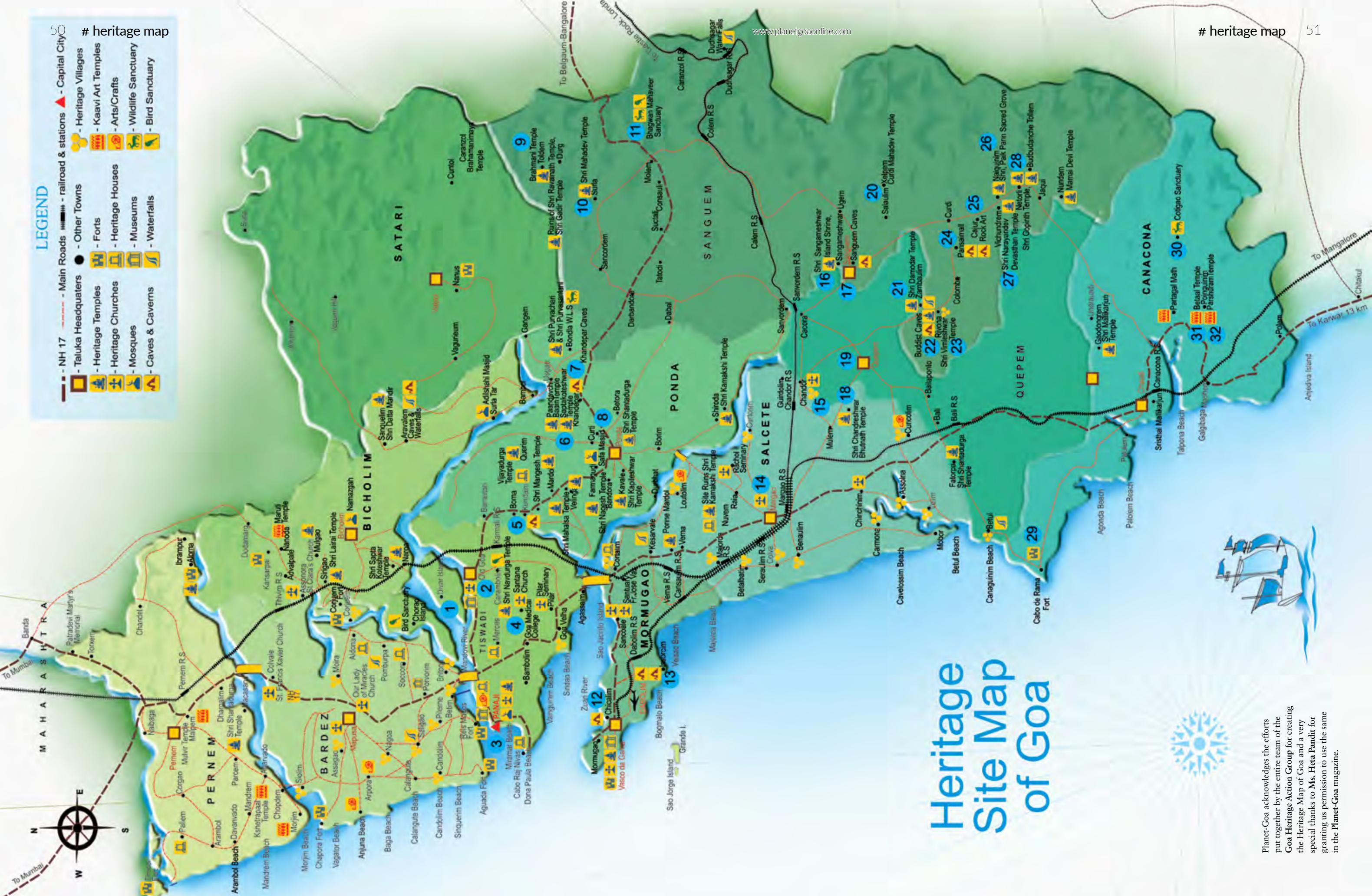
Ravi's Ras Gado near the Panjim Church Square is another food truck serving this distinctive home fare, which subsequently, gained acclaim as a street food. The traditional Goan omelette poi here is garnished with rasso, usually from the Chicken Cafreal or Xacuti gravy. Ravi is renowned for his fluffy omelettes encased in a soft poi, topped with some raw onions and a large dollop of the ros. He is usually open till about 1.30am.



50 # heritage map

- NH 17 - Main Roads
- Capital City - ▲ - railroad & stations
- Taluka Headquarters - ● - Other Towns
- Heritage Temples - ■ - Kaavi Art Temples
- Heritage Churches - □ - Arts/Crafts
- Mosques - △ - Wildlife Sanctuary
- Caves & Caverns - ▲ - Bird Sanctuary

Heritage Site Map of Goa



Planet-Goa acknowledges the efforts put together by the entire team of the Goa Heritage Action Group for creating the Heritage Map of Goa and a very special thanks to Ms. Heta Pandit for granting us permission to use the same in the Planet-Goa magazine.

1. Divar

The island of Divar is famed for Bonderam, the festival held on the river island on the 4th Saturday of the month of August. Bonderam means the festival of flags. Its high point is a mock battle to commemorate the property wars that took place here over a century ago. Its landmark is its Indo Portuguese Architecture.

2. Old goa – Cidade de Goa, Velha Goa

The story of old Goa begins at a rather modest shrine of Shri Gomanteshwar up in the hills at a distance from the river. The city moved to the banks of the river Mandovi (than called the Gomti) at the end of Kadamba rule. Royal life then revolved around the Saptakoteshwar Temple (where the church of Our Lady of Divine Providence stands today) until the daccan sultans made it their capital and called it Ela. The Portuguese Wrested it from the Adil Shah and began building "The Rome of the East" with churches, chapels, markets, houses and a bustling trading post. The city fell to disease and economic ruin as a consequence of religious persecution and the capital moved to Nova Goa or Pangim (Panaji) in the middle of the 19th century.

3. Panaji – The Capital

The only thing that distinguishes Goa from any other city in India is the 7 km long promenade, built on a planned grid system with a unique storm drain system and perhaps the only city in India that has relocated stone by stone from the capital that fell to disease and ruination. The architectural styles vary from the Goan Domestic Indian Art Deco, Indo European, and Indian Baroque to British Colonial. This place has art combined with functionality. Apart from its architectural wealth the city has a deep treasure chest of cultural patterns and traditions.

4. Santana Church, Telaulim

One of the five models after which all the churches and chapels followed suit, this one perhaps is the most fascinating church of all.

5. Saptakoteshwar temple at Narva, Bicholim

Originally located on the island of Divar in the hamlet of Narva since construction by the Kadamba Queen Kamladevi in 1155 A.D, it was destroyed by the Portuguese in 1541 when the deity was shifted across the river to New Narva Bicholim. Shivaji renovated this temple in 1668.

6. Man made Cave, Kundaim

This cave may have been a pre-historic shrine in active worship once. A state protected monument today, its survival hangs in a balance on the edge of a highway.

7. Khandepar Caves

This cave may have been a pre-historic shrine in active worship once and is now a state protected monument.

8. Safa Masjid, Ponda

This mosque was build by Ibrahim Adil Shah of Bijapur. Adjacent to the mosque is a well constructed masonry tank with small dressing chambers with Mihrab designs.



Divar

9. Shri Brahmani Temple, Toldem, Sanguem

This temple is dated in the 12th century and has been built in the Hoysala or kadamba temple style of architecture. There are some erotic sculptures on the walls of the temple and some Graeco Persian mythical figures, animals, birds, etc.



Old goa – Cidade de Goa, Velha Goa

10. Shri Mahadev Temple, Tambdi Surla

This temple standing in the midst of a dense forest may date back in the 12th or 13th century A.D. It was built of black basalt stone masonry with no mortar used for bonding and has monolithic pillars. Facing the east the temple is raised on a plainly moulded plinth.



Santana Church, Telaulim

11. Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary, Molem

Besides being a good birding site the sanctuary also has a cluster of pre-Aryan homes.



Panaji – The Capital

12. Underground Chambers of Chicalim

Three underground chambers were found at Chicalim with megalithic potsherds.



Pansaimol, Sanguem

13. Caves and Caverns at Issorcem, Hollant, Vasco

One of Goa's most recent discoveries these caves are obviously man made but vertical to the ground. Cave dwellers probably suspended themselves into their rock homes with vines and then covered the entrance hole with circular discs at night.



Khandepar Caves

14. Margao (Madgoan)

Once named Mathagram either after the mutt or temple complex located where the main church stands today or after the Madvals or washer men who dominated the village, Margao has a model church and admire some fascinating Goan Houses.



Margao (Madgoan)

15. Chandor Heritage, Village

Visit Our Lady of Belem church for period furniture and statuary, the twin mansions of the Braganza-pereira families and the heritage home of Sara Fernandes for a look and feel of Goa's colonial past. You can see Goa's oldest Fort wall, ruins of the 11th century Shiva temple dating to the Kadamba Periods.



Chandor Heritage, Village

16. Sangameshwar Island Shrine, Sanguem

This shrine is located on a stone slab in the middle of the meeting of the three rivers, the Kushavati, Sanguem and Guleli. The confluence of three rivers has always been Sacred in India.



Sanguem

on the banks of the Kushavati River.

26. Shri Paika Pann Sacred Grove, Naiquinim, Sanguem

This temple complex is dedicated to the goddess Mahisuramardini and is located in a sacred grove. It was built at the height of the Shivate cult.



Khandepar Caves

27. Shri Narayandev Devasthan Temple, Vichundrem, Sanguem

The temple is dated to the 11th century and this deity is particularly worshipped by Vaishanavites. The frame surrounding Shri Narayandev is exquisitely carved showcasing the dashavatars or ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu.



Safa Masjid, Ponda

28. Shri Gopinath Temple, Budbudanche Tollem, Neturli

The original idol of Lord Gopinath (Krishna) dates to 9th – 10th century. It was originally built keeping the concept of devghar or God's house. Located on a temple tank where water bubbles up to the surface every few seconds, this temple has recently rebuilt.



Shri Mahadev Temple, Tambdi Surla

29. Cabo da Rama, Canacona

Built by the soundekar kings towards the end of the 16th century, this magnificent monument has a moat, a fantastic view of the sea and two freshwater tanks. The ramps were meant for elephants and horses. This was locally called Ramachem Bhursir. Later taken over by the Portuguese in 1764, its name was changed to Cabo de Rama.



Shri Gopinath Temple, Budbudanche Tollem, Neturli

30. Cotigao Wildlife Santuary

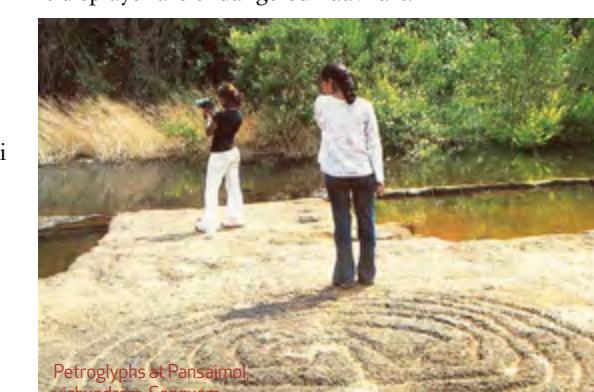
Kusken waterfall may be seen in the Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary in Canacona taluka. You can also see the ruins of ancient temples in this tiny village of Kusken.

31. Shri Betaal Temple, Painguinim, Canacona

Dedicated to a pre-Aryan deity, this temple displays rare endangered kaavi art.

32. Shri Parshuram Temple, Painguinim, Canacona

This temple is dedicated to the legendary Vaishnavite deity of Goa. It displays rare endangered kaavi art.



Petroglyphs at Pansaimol, Vichundrem, Sanguem

Get Drenched in the Colour of Spring, with Holi & Shigmo

BY NIDHI LALL

THE fun and pun of celebrating Holi on a beach takes on a whole new meaning. The Holi festival is not limited to North India. It is a festival that is celebrated with equal enthusiasm and thrill by the energetic people of Goa, just as in the north. Visitors to Goa during the Holi festival can feast their eyes on the rain of colours. The wondrous festival of Holi is enjoyed by locals and tourists alike.

In Goa, the onset of spring



PHOTO BY TONY PHAM ON UNSPLASH



PICTURE COURTESY FLICKR

is marked by the festival of Shigmotsav. Just as Holi—the festival of colours—heralds the arrival of spring after winter. The same is true of Shigmotsav in Goa. The festival is celebrated mostly by the masses, who follow all religious traditions. Performances on drums and epic enactments of mythology are religiously followed. Vivid and vibrant colours of gugal and neel are abundantly used. Shigmotsav

is highlighted by the performances of troupes in the form of parades and cultural dramas. At dusk, huge effigies are taken in processions, and prizes are given away.

WHERE IS THE PARTY?

This year, the festival of colours falls on the 7th and 8th of March. The events and parties are being planned, spanning all over Goa. Here is a short laundry list of the best Holi party destinations in Goa.

Calangute, Goa: Known as the Tandav Holi Celebrations It is the 9th consecutive year that the celebrations are going to be hosted. The never-ending parade of celebrities and artists makes this one of the most exciting Holi celebrations in Goa.

Location: Destination One, GTDC Hotel Complex, Calangute Beach, Goa.

Small Vagator, Goa: Goa's iconic party destination

The Hill Top, is a destination for trance fans and psychedelic parties. The Holi event in Goa attracts international DJs. Location: Hill Top Club, Small Vagator, Goa

Anjuna, Goa: Popularly known

as Colorland Colorland is perhaps the largest of the Holi festivals held in Goa each year. Nothing could be more grandiose than this event, which has big names in entertainment associated with it.

Location: Nyex Beach Club, Dmello Vaddo, Anjuna, Goa.

Ponda, Goa: Popularly known as Rangholic A great platform for people to dance their way out of any Holi party in Goa to the tunes of budding young DJs in Goa Location: GTDC, Farmagudi Hill Resort, Ponda, Goa

Vagator, Goa: Popularly known as The Jungle Calling Party The Jungle Calling Festival during the Holi festival is a great way to answer the call of the wilderness in festival flavour.



PHOTO BY JOHN THOMAS ON UNSPLASH





PICTURE COURTESY GOOGLE IMAGES

Location: Origins, near Shalai Resort, Ozran Beach, Vagator, Goa

SHIGMOTSAV

While you enjoy the all-out entertainment of Holi parties at the beaches, hotels, pubs, and other tourist places, the cultural aspects come forth

with the commencement of the Shigmo festival, or Shigmotsav. This year Shigmo is celebrated on 21st March 2023.

Shigmo is Goa's spring festival, which the Konkani diaspora celebrates with great pomp and splendour. This festival takes place in the Phalguna month, according to the Saka calendar of the Hindu community living in Goa. Every year in March, this festival is held with great fun and enthusiasm.

Shigmo Holi is one of the different types of Holi, and it has two variants – the Dhakto (small) and Vadhi (big) Shigmo. While the first one is of more significance to the farming segment, for the rural people and laborers, the second one—Vadhi is celebrated by one and all. Out of the many things to do in Goa during

Holi; a visit to the Shigmo celebration is a must.

The Panaji Shigmotsav Samiti also organises a parade in Panaji. Besides the numerous temples around Goa, they also make special arrangements for Holi celebrations. The celebrations in Panaji, Mapusa, Vasco da Gama, and Margao are particularly interesting.

You just cannot miss out on participating in the dancing, singing, and feasting along with a large procession during Shigmo. Experience it while you are here.



PICTURE COURTESY GOOGLE IMAGES

Live the DREAM

For urban dwellers, dreaming of a better and quality life, Goa seems to catch their attention because of its laidback culture, its melting-pot crowds, sun-kissed summers and rain-lashed monsoons. Owning a dream home in Goa is becoming a wish-list for many. Charm of Goa draws all city people from all over India to the solitude and calm the city offers. Here are few properties that will entice you to get a home away from home.



REIS MAGOS

Brand new Sea facing bungalow in Reis Magos in plot size of 750 sq mtrs with swimming pool, servant rooms. Price on request.



DONA PAULA

Semi furnished duplex flat in one the best communities of Dona Paula 4BHK pool facing apartment with all amenities. Price on request.



CANDOLIM

88 sq mtrs 2 BHK tastefully done up flat at Candolim in one the best societies having all amenities ideal for holiday home with good rental income price 87 lac.



ASSAGAON

1200 sq mts plot at Assagaon clear title settlement plot on main road excellent road frontage suitable for commercial as well as villa project.



CALANGUTE

1000 sq mtrs clear title settlement plot at Calangute in green and peaceful surroundings price on 50000 psqm.



PORVORIM

2BHK apartment at Succour Porvorim with green view and surroundings measuring 129 sq mtrs, in a well-maintained society with all modern amenities. Price 78 lacs



ANJUNA

875 sq mtrs plot with old house at Anjuna with lots of open space around it very close to all the major attractions. Price on request.



ARPORA

Under construction independent 5 BHK Villa on Anjuna Arpora main with green view behind it with private swimming pool and gym Price on request



SIOLIM

2000 sq mtrs river touch plot located at Siolim with old house in it. Price on request.

For further details on the above properties, contact Saurabh Khanna on +91-9422442242

Tripping Through Gorgeous Goa

BY MOHUA SEN
PIX CREDIT: ARCHITECT SAMEER NADKARNI,
PRESIDENT XAXTI RIDERS



CYCLING in Goa is a trip. The good roads, the plethora of interesting little village roads, the sparse traffic, the fact that most vehicles in Goa are still indulgent of these lycra and helmet clad madcaps who can be seen traveling very fast to go nowhere, and of course the beautiful Goan countryside all combine in a heady mix to make cycling in Goa an uplifting, joyful and fun-filled activity. Where else would you be able to see a thousand splendid suns, sometimes an orange ball of fire rising above the treeline, and sometimes reflected golden in one of the numerous ponds and rivulets that are strewn carelessly all over Goa, sometimes setting amidst a blush pink sky that quickly turns purple, sometimes winking naughtily through a screen of coconut leaf fronds, sometimes appearing from behind a church spire throwing the structure into relief and sometimes boringly just vanishing into the evening sea without drama. Of course, you could very well drive around chasing the sun, but where's the fun in that? The pleasure of cycling is to become an unwitting actor in the theatre of nature's unfolding glory. No doubt this can be fraught with danger as the ubiquitous dogs may at anytime decide to take a nip out of your ankle, cute little piglets oink across the road forcing you to brake and brake hard, a snake slithers along and you just HAVE to slow down to take a look, a troop of monkeys cross the road in graceful bounds, and on an occasion during a night ride (and I swear it is true) a group of riders had



to take cover while a pack of Gaurs (the Indian Bison, not the football team) charged across the road!

The word most dreaded in recent times must have been 'lockdown'. People stuck at home, wondering about depleting stocks of grocery, worrying about making the technological leap into the era of work-from-home. But hey, remember when life gives you lemons don't crib about how it sucks, break out the tequila and salt, right? That just about sums the attitude of the average cyclist in Goa. The lockdown became the catalyst for people to take up outdoor activities, cycling being one of the chief ones – age and gender no bar. It allowed you to meet your fitness goals in the fresh open air, hang out with people yet remain socially distanced and to cycle without





fear of being knocked down by a vehicle in a tearing hurry. Importantly, it provided you with the leisure to cycle longer distances and consequently explore more and more of Goa. In the time it took the world to go from huh what's COVID to knowledgably discussing the Omicron variant, the average cyclist in Goa went from huff-puff I just rode 50km to a nonchalant, let's do a 100km tomorrow – and it is amazing what you can see and experience on those 100km rides.

There are local cycling clubs all over Goa, each with its own motto and the club I ride with is Xaxti Riders, with the tagline Live to Ride. Born out Architect Sameer Nadkarni's passion for the sport, it is one of the largest and most active clubs in Goa. What makes the club special is that not only does it promote cycling as a fitness and leisure activity but also sponsors and nurtures young talent for competitive cycling at the highest levels of the sport. For the most of us though, it is all about fitness and fun with huge dollops of camaraderie thrown in. The Xaxti Riders signature is wonderfully curated rides, especially on weekends. It brings large numbers of riders together in what we call the 'Sunday Funday' rides. Come the rains, and two favorite rides are to the historic temple of Tambdi Surla and to the Harvalem Waterfalls.

A ride to the beautiful and historic Shiva temple of Tambdi Surla (53km each way) is a never-to-be-missed experience. Starting off from Madgaon and traversing some fabulous roads and



highways, you eventually hit Dharbandora after which you leave the main roads and cycle through twisty, turny village roads all the way to this exquisitely carved stone temple. You park your cycles, but before you can head for the shrine the babbling Surla river, beckons beguilingly in an irresistible invitation and everyone enthusiastically walks down to take a dip in the river. Refreshed and invigorated you walk to the temple where you just have to stop for a moment and gaze in wonder. The black stone washed clean by the rains, nestled in the lap of lush green mountains, bathed in a lovely monsoon mist and surrounded by immaculately manicured lawns. This 12th century monument is protected as a heritage site under the ASI, and is an active temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. There is also a trek that you can do

from here to the Tambdi Surla waterfall, but we are here only for the ride and of course the all-important breakfast. Like everything else about the Xaxti Riders' Sunday Funday rides, the breakfast is always



well planned. Cycling off the beaten path onto increasingly narrowing roads, you stumble onto a quaint little place called The Jungle Trail Homestay. Walking the last few meters, you are given a warm welcome by a group of village ladies who are your hosts for breakfast. Imagine sitting in the balcao of an old village home set in the middle of nowhere. The background music is provided by the occasional drizzle. Enjoy a hot, local Goan breakfast of bhaji-pao and traditional rice puris called vodde accompanied with sweet mangane, followed by piping hot tea and coffee. If ever there is a heaven on earth, it here in this moment. (A small tip for anyone who would like to try this breakfast, it is provided by a self-help group and you have to book in advance through the local authorities).

A ride to Harvalem waterfall is another wonderful picnic ride. Going from Madgaon to Harvalem takes you through

some fantastic roads through the heartlands with names you rarely hear in tourist guides Ponda, Usgao, Candepar, Sanquelim, Bicholim until you reach the lovely Harvalem falls. The Shree Rudreshwar temple dedicated to and built on the site of an ancient Shiva occupies much of the area, and lends an aura of peace and tranquility, despite the constant roar of the waterfall in spate. (Tip for those wanting to visit, well duh monsoon is really the best time!)

An interesting element in the Harvalem ride are the Pandava caves, an old archaeological site with Buddhist style caves where the Pandavas are supposed to have sought refuge in during their exile. The caves have been cut into five rooms or segments and there seem to be remains of Shivalingas in them. Whatever their origins and their story, they are an interesting piece of Goan history.

When the monsoons taper off, it's the season for club cycling events, as each club vies with the other to give all the riders the best and most comfortable riding experience of all. The winner here of course is (and no prizes for guessing this one!) the cycling community, as a vibrant culture of friendship and camaraderie take the events beyond mere cycling to gala affairs with music, food, goodie bags, complimentary physiotherapy and on occasion even some beer!

The Xaxti Riders Club is at the forefront of making cycling events in Goa bigger and better. The routes take you through some of the



prettiest areas of South Goa and are fully supported with perfectly marked routes, proper hydration and rest points, sweeper vehicles following the riders and ambulances on standby in case of any mishap. So high are the standards set, that riders come from different parts of India to participate in the events... and mind you, the only prize here is a medal and the satisfaction of having done

the ride!

The Go Girls Go, a first of its kind ride curated especially for the ladies where you can choose to do either 50km or a 100km, and is held in October. It is a day when girls of all ages are spoiled rotten for the duration of the ride. From cold towels to cold oranges, from water sprays to energy drinks, from volunteers cheering at every stop to volunteers riding

alongside – Xaxti Riders makes sure that no girls get left behind and every rider no matter how experienced or green, feels the sense of achievement of completing an event ride.

The toughest of all events in Goa is without doubt the Xaxti 200. Not for the inexperienced, nor for the faint of heart, this November event requires you to ride 200 kilometers within 13 and a half hours scaling an elevation of more than 2,600 meters. To put it in perspective Mt. Everest is 8,849m, which means that effectively in those 200km, you are climbing almost one-third of the highest mountain peak in the world! What helps apart from the usual pampering and support is the absolutely gorgeous route that takes you through reserve forest and wildlife sanctuary territory, past the Bamanbudo waterfall where you can take

a dip to cool off if you so desire, and coastal roads from which you can catch tantalising glimpses of the dazzling blue sea. After all this, what awaits you is a relaxing physiotherapy session to ease out the kinks and aches, sumptuous evening snacks and a gossip session where you compare aches and pains with fellow riders, while discussing and dissecting each segment of the ride. I have to tell you peeps, the hills you climb are high, but the high you get after completing this toughie is on a different level!

The event that is the most looked forward to and sees almost 500 riders from all over India is the Xaxti 100. Since its inception 5 years ago, the event has grown in stature and popularity. So much so that this year with the cooperation of administration, cyclists had the absolute right of way while traffic was regulated

for them at every junction, an unimaginable situation anywhere in India and a sure sign that outdoor cycling as an activity is coming into its own in the country.

I started off by saying that cycling in Goa is a trip. It is THE way of exploring unseen, un-touristy Goa. Of discovering secret local places, and immersing oneself in a world of sensory delight. Here's hoping that more and more people will ditch motorized vehicles to discover Goa with its rich history and culture, its quaint villages and local restaurants, its reserve forests and natural beauty all of which exist beyond the allure of the nightlife and the beach shack.

*Follow us on Instagram @
xaxtiriders
and Facebook @Xaxti Riders*



Surfing through the Greys

Silver Surfers Club

You are never too old unless you want to be! Age is just a number; count the memories you make while living to the fullest. Silver Surfers Club is an initiative that brings a positive change among the still-young-at-heart individuals. This article has been written by Bay Agnani for The Silver Surfers Travel Club, a Travel Community with a difference, created for the new breed of 'Young at Heart' 50+ travellers who crave independent travel.

TEXT AND IMAGES: BAY AGNANI SILVER SURFERS CLUB



Silver Surfers Club - Life begins @ 60

We will all eventually reach the stage where we will adorn the silver greys over our heads. It will be a transitional period where we will experience major life changes, including career transitions, retirement,

children moving on to lead their lives, physical and health challenges. How do we handle these changes and overcome the challenges of ageing.

Few of us know ahead of time how to age well and there is no one-size-fits-all approach.

One such organisation, the Silver Surfers Club, has been steadfastly disrupting perceptions of ageing and encouraging a positive outlook to growing old.



Goofing Around in Ha Long Bay



Explore Goa with Silver Surfers Club



Travelling @ 60 to Croatia

AT THE SILVER SURFERS CLUB

In the 8 years of running the club, offering events, birthday and festival parties, job placements, silver bazaars, holidays and meet-ups, the founder - Dipti Varma Narain - has seen members blossom into fun, active, independent and enthusiastic individuals buoyed by the strength and friendships offered by each other.

Dipti says, "We've witnessed first-hand how the friendships formed within the Silver Surfers Club cocooned our members with a strong support system, gave a new sense of purpose, empowered our members to be more active and allowed them to be seen, heard and included."

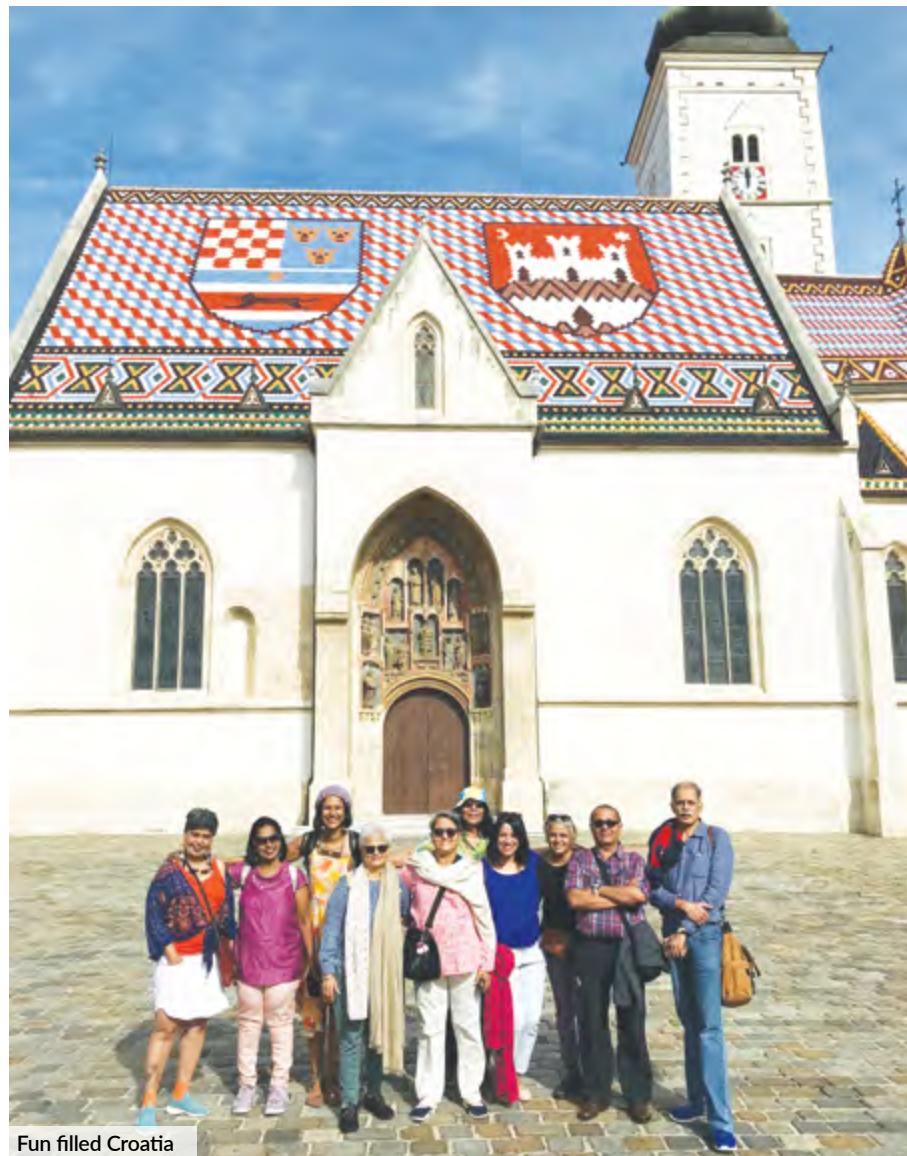
As holidays to bucket list destinations became the delight and highlight of the community, 2022 saw the birth of a free membership Travel Club for seniors, a concept that's been brewing for the past 4 years. The idea was to grow the community, widen the net of like-minded

friends, offer more domestic and international holidays and breathe joy and purpose into more lives by keeping the community active and alive.

I believe communities such as the Silver Surfers Travel Club send a strong message that the colours of life are beautiful at every stage. Ageing gracefully isn't about trying to look younger, it's about living your best life and having the



Heaven is a place on earth, and its Kashmir



Fun filled Croatia



Masai Mara

physical and mental health to enjoy it. Like a bottle of wine, we can get better with age and with the right care.

STORIES @ THE CLUB

The motto at the Silver Surfers Travel Club is 'Friends in Places'. Travel is not just about taking a vacation – it's about allowing active seniors to fulfil their exploration dreams and to do so with easier paced itineraries, accompanied by like-minded 'Seenagers' that become fast-track friends along the exciting journeys. It's also about breaking society's stereotypes about how seniors can and cannot travel.

Darshana signed her mother, Maya up to the Silver Surfers Club, 6 years ago after she bravely ended a long-suffering marriage at the age of 60.

Darshana says she noticed a remarkably positive change in her mother's confidence and moods with her busy Silver Surfers social calendar. Maya travelled to Masai Mara and Croatia with the group and is part of three offshoot interest groups that were organically formed between the members of the community. Maya said she has the most fun with the dancing group as it's something she always shied away from during her marriage. Recently they went for a jive night at a Beatles tribute concert, one of her all-time favourite bands.

Lalita joined the club to meet new people her age after she moved from Delhi to Bangalore to be closer to her grandchildren. She had stopped travelling as her husband passed away and her children were busy with life and their own families. Lalita has since been an active member, hosting annual Diwali parties at her



Trekking up to Tigers Nest-Bhutan

farm for the other members, who have all become dear friends. Lalita also rekindled her love for exploring new places and has travelled solo with the Silver Surfers Club on 7 holidays. Her favourite holiday was the one to Japan and she is looking forward to the Mediterranean cruise in April with her buddies from the community.

Nearing 80, Anil attempted his first river rafting excursion in Kashmir, inspiring courage amongst the younger members of the group. Aged 60 and 65, Savita & Mac were hailed as forever heroes for completing the hike to the Tiger's Nest Monastery in Bhutan. At age 72, Uma refused to be left behind and wriggled herself

into a kayak to paddle across the blue waters of HaLong Bay. Aged 76, Usha and 7 other Silver Surfers soared away from Cappadocia, singing loudly to the skies in a hot air balloon. The common dominator between all these Silver Travellers? – Their indomitable will to have fun and feel alive.

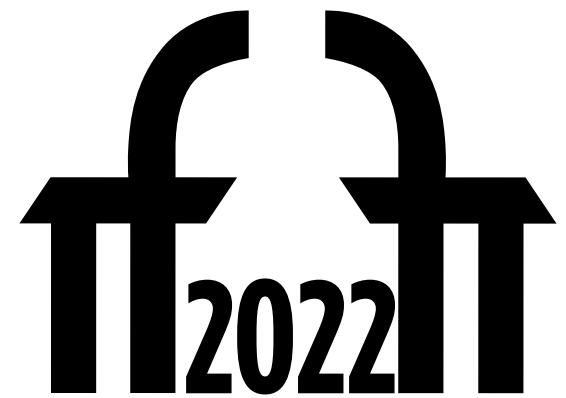
CLOSING NOTE BUT NEVER THE LAST

There is also no doubt that travel has cathartic effects travel on the senior community. Holidays have repeatedly proven that Travel is Therapy and creating memorable experiences is the way forward to live a happy full life, no matter your age.



Travelling Buddies at Mt Fuji - Japan

If you or perhaps your parents, an older relative, a mature neighbour or a senior mate could benefit from some Travel Therapy, get in touch with the Silver Surfers Travel Club. We can't help getting older but we don't have to grow old!



Asia's Most Celebrated Film Festival

A BRIEF RENDEVOUZ ON IFFI

The 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) began with a grand opening ceremony in Goa at Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Panaji. IFFI, one of Asia's oldest film festivals, began with the screening of Alma and Oskar by Austrian director Dieter Berner. During the opening ceremony, Spanish

film director Carlos Saura received the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award. Chiranjeevi, the veteran actor, has been named Indian Film Personality of the Year 2022. Mr. Chiranjeevi has had a distinguished career spanning nearly four decades, appearing in over 150 films as an actor, dancer, and producer. He is a huge star in Telugu cinema, with incredible performances

that touch people's hearts. Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, made the announcement during the IFFI opening ceremony.

India has hosted 52 International Film Festivals of India (IFFI), both competitive and non-competitive, since 1952. From 1975 on, the festival became an annual event. The festival's 53rd edition, which includes a competition for feature films by directors from all over the world, will be held in Goa.

The International Federation of Film Producers' Associations has recognised the Festival (FIAPF). Given the success of the 51st and 52nd editions of the hybrid festival, the 53rd IFFI may offer screenings in hybrid format; the upcoming festival will screen films on its official digital platform in addition to the theatrical screenings during the festival in Goa.

The Festival offers a common platform for world filmmakers to project their



excellence in film art; to contribute to the understanding and appreciation of film cultures of different nations in the context of their social and cultural ethos; and to promote global friendship and cooperation.

IFFI 2022 - A TETE A TETE

IFFI has evolved into a showcase for film directors from all over the world. He is confident that India will become a global hub for co-production, post-production, filming, and technology partners.

Mr. Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, urged the film industry to make India, a global content hub. As the country celebrates Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav,

he stated that the government intends to make India the most sought-after destination for filmmakers, co-production, and post-production. He especially mentioned that for the first time, 75 young

film-makers from across the country participated in the 53-hour challenge to create a film about India at 100. In addition, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Manipuri cinema, IFFI included a special





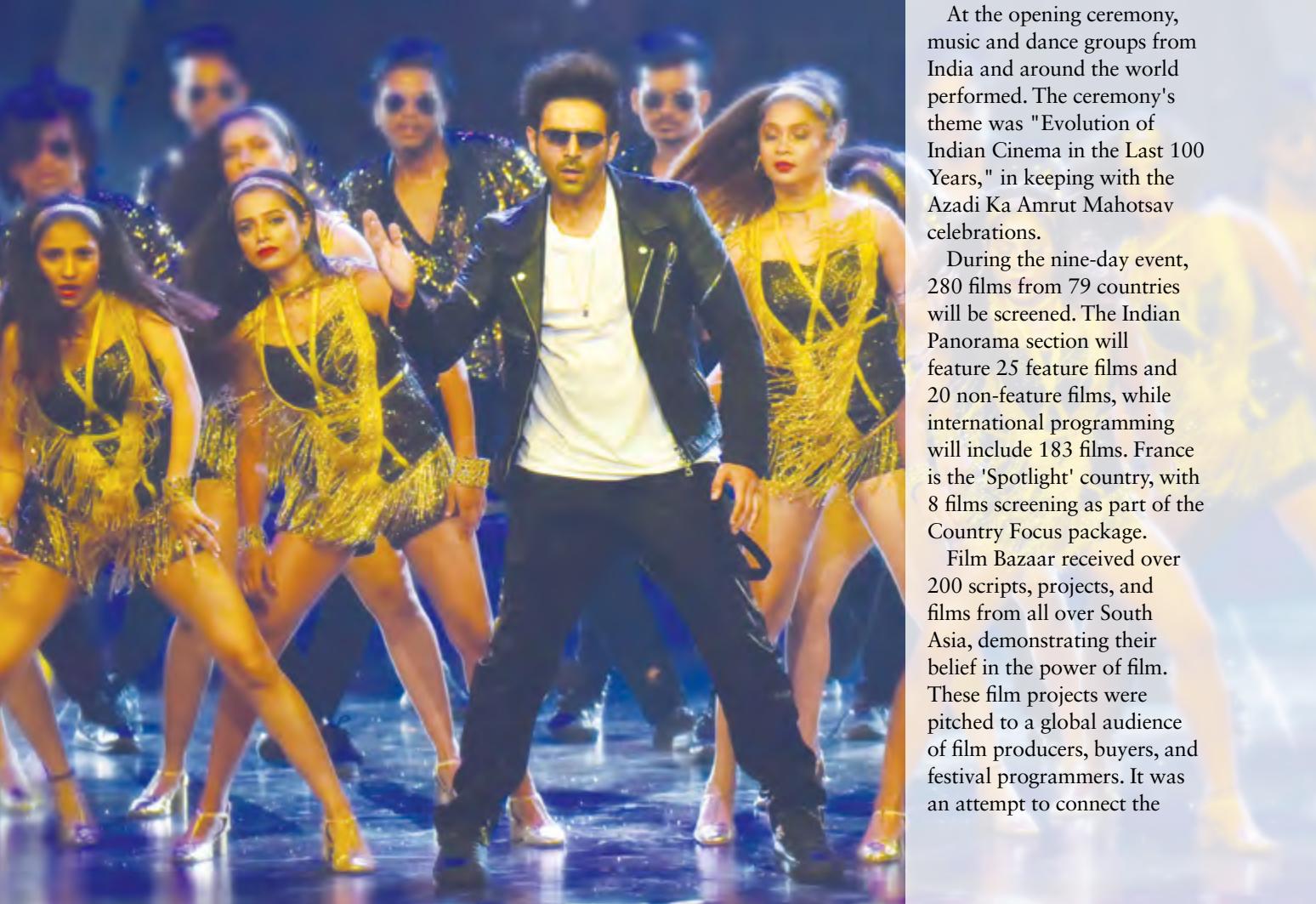
dedicated section on Manipuri films for the first time. He went on to say that the commitment to giving emphasis and a platform to regional cinema is strong because it has gained national and international acclaim.

Top film celebrities from across the country performed cultural performances at the opening ceremony. Ajay Devgn, Paresh Rawal, Manoj Bajpayee, Suniel Shetty, Mrunal Thakur, Varun Dhawan, Sara Ali Khan, and Karthik Aryan were among the celebrities who attended the opening ceremony. The event was also attended by Goa Governor PS Sreedharan, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, and Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan.

At the opening ceremony, music and dance groups from India and around the world performed. The ceremony's theme was "Evolution of Indian Cinema in the Last 100 Years," in keeping with the Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav celebrations.

During the nine-day event, 280 films from 79 countries will be screened. The Indian Panorama section will feature 25 feature films and 20 non-feature films, while international programming will include 183 films. France is the 'Spotlight' country, with 8 films screening as part of the Country Focus package.

Film Bazaar received over 200 scripts, projects, and films from all over South Asia, demonstrating their belief in the power of film. These film projects were pitched to a global audience of film producers, buyers, and festival programmers. It was an attempt to connect the



best creative minds with the appropriate mentorship and resources. This festival's goal is to enrich the film art form by infusing new ideas into it. The cutting-edge segment fosters interpersonal relationships among international organisations associated with the film industry.

FINAL NOTE

The IFFI 2022 closing ceremony in Goa concluded on November 28 at Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium near Panaji. Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr L Murugan, and Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant attended the ceremony. According to CM Pramod Sawant, the Goa brand is now synonymous with the IFFI brand. He also stated that the state government makes every effort to add new dimensions to the film festival each year in order to make it more vibrant. He stated that the people of Goa value art and culture and that the state is the most welcoming destination.

Akshay Kumar, Asha Parekh, Ramesh Sippy, Ayushman Khurana, Manushi Chhillar, Rana Duggubati, Sharman



Joshi, and Khushbu Sundar were among those who attended the event.

The Spanish language film 'I Have Electric Dreams,' directed by Valentina Maurel, won the coveted Golden Peacock Award for Best Film. Nader Saeivar's Turkish film 'No End' won Best Director. For the film 'No End,' 'Vahid Mobasher' won the 'Silver Peacock' award for 'Best Actor (Male). Daniela Marin Navarro received the 'Silver Peacock' award for 'Best Actor (Female)' for the film 'I Have Electric Dreams'.

The Special Jury Award was conferred on Director 'Lav

Diaz' the film 'When the Waves are Gone'. Payam Eskandar's Iranian film "Nargesi" won the ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Medal. 'Best Debut Feature Film of a Director' was awarded to 'Asimina Proedrou' for her work on the Greek film 'Behind the Haystacks'. Praveen Kandregula's Telugu film "Cinema Bandi" received a special mention in the Best Debut Feature Film category.

Cultural performances by troupes from Goa, the North East, the Prince Dance Group, and others concluded the ceremony.



GOA ARTS AND LITERARY FESTIVAL 2023

TEXT & IMAGES: NIDHI LALL



The Goa Arts and Literature Festival (GALF) is an annual literary festival in Goa. The International Centre, Goa (ICG) organises the event in association with the Goa Writers' Group, with support from the Directorate of Art and Culture, Government of Goa.

THE 11th edition of the Goa Arts and Literature Festival opened on January 17, 2023, at the International Centre Goa (ICG). The event's prominent focus was on Goa's state language and literature throughout its agenda. The

event also celebrated the 2022 Jnanpith Award winner, Damodar Mauzo, the festival co-founder and co-curator.

FESTIVAL RENDEZVOUS

The festival was inaugurated with the keynote address by the

2019 Nobel Prize Winner for Economics, Professor Abhijit Banerjee of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Goan military hero Major General Ian Cardozo. The inaugural evening continued with the launch of noted Konkani writer and public

intellectual Uday Bhembre's latest novel, Vhoddlem Ghor.

The GALF 2023 agenda revolves around exciting book launches, presentations, panel discussions, and films. It also included separate sessions for Major General Ian Cardozo's

highly-regarded Bangladeshi novelist Iffat Nawaz, and Goa's filmmaker Bardroy Barreto.

The event also unveiled artist Nirupa Naik's composed painting at the inaugural ceremony. Nirupa was the only female among the first batch of

Lawns, ICG. The guest of the evening was Goan pop music icon Remo Fernandes, who mesmerised the audiences with his music in the closing ceremony. He did a medley of his memorable hits like 'Maria Pitache', 'Undir Mama Aiylo',



'O Meri Munni', and 'Bombay City' which gave the finale an upbeat ending. The peppy number Maria Pitache made the audience sing 'Ya Ya Maya Ya' along with him.

In a conversation with Vivek Menezes, co-curator of the festival, Remo discussed his autobiography, "Remo". He also talked about his childhood memories during pre-liberation Goa, Panjim of the Portuguese era in the 1950s, and his architecture studies in Mumbai. He shared his backpacking journey across Europe, his homecoming in the early 1980s, and his eventful musical career.

acclaimed memoir Cartoos Saab: A Soldier's Story of Resilience in Adversity and Professor Banerjee's brilliant new cookbook (along with illustrator Cheyenne Olivier), Cooking to Save Your Life. Other distinguished delegates include the superb poet/novelist Kynpham Sing Nongkynrih, next-gen publisher Trisha Niyogi, pioneering indie publisher Arpita Das Ribeiro,

students when the Goa College of Arts, Panjim, was inceptioned in 1984. She is a much sought-after artist with numerous solo and group shows around the country to her credit.

A MELODIOUS FINALE

The 11th Goa Arts and Literature Festival 2023 came to a close on January 19, 2023, at the Laran Amphitheatre

Purple Fest Goa

honours People with Disabilities.



"Today in Mann Ki Baat, I want to share this with all of you. This event happened in Goa — Purple Fest. This festival was organised in Panaji from January 6th to the 8th, and this was a unique effort in itself for the welfare of Divyangs. For making Purple Fest a success, I congratulate all the people who participated in it. Along with this, I also want to congratulate those volunteers, who came together to work day and night to organise this event. I have full faith that such campaigns will prove to be very effective in realising our vision of an accessible India."

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi



THE Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, in collaboration with the Directorate of Social Welfare Goa and the Sports Authority of Goa, came together to celebrate "Purple Fest Goa: Celebrating Diversity." The Purple Fest is a one-of-a-kind initiative taken by the State of

Goa to give opportunities to specially challenged individuals to rejoice in this fun and activity filled event. The festival was held from January 6th to 8th, 2023, at the ESG premises in Panjim, with all the pomp and show.

The Opening Ceremony of the unique Purple fest was held at Inox Courtyard in the presence of Chief Minister of

Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant and Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar who presided over the function along with Minister for Tourism, Rohan Khaunte.

The festival welcomed over 5,000 delegate, including members of the disabled community and other individuals from all over the country. Around 1000 local



volunteers came forward to assist the delegates, persons with and without disability. "With 70 exhibitors and over 60 guest speakers, we hope to find the right path to empowering India here in Goa," said Guruprasad Pawaskar.

The three-day festival's aim is to address the concept of inclusivity into our society, and how to support one another.

THE INFINITE OPPORTUNITIES AND FUN AT THE PURPLE FEST

The festival had a well-planned agenda that included various activities to encourage and honour the participants with disabilities and make their journey joyful. At the event, the first-ever specially designed E-Rickshaw vehicles from EzyMov was launched as part of the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan. Six such vehicles were used during the Fest to take PWD (Persons with Disability) around in the most convenient way.

Purple Think Tank



disabilities. Participants go through a disability simulation for a few minutes, during which they are made to perform a few simple tasks in a safe environment. [Curated by Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC), Mumbai]

Inter-State Blind Cricket Tournament

Tournament: As a prelude to the Purple Fest, an Interstate Blind Cricket Tournament was organised by Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, and Directorate of Social Welfare, in union with Goa Cricket Association and Blind Cricket Association of Goa. The Interstate Blind Cricket tournament witnessed a total of six teams participating including Goa, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Pondicherry and Telangana.

Museum of Possibilities:

Curated by the Museum of Possibilities, Chennai, the platform displays various ideas and features with the possibility of incorporation and access to a world of opportunities for people with disabilities. This platform helps build awareness about accessible technology, assistive devices, and products designed for all.

Inclusive Carnival: The event provided a fun-filled, non-judgmental environment that encourages interaction between the general public and people with disabilities. [Curated



by Akshadhaa Foundation, Bangalore]

Purple We Care Film Festival: This channel is for mainstream students who want to learn about the lives of people with disabilities through films. [Curated by Brotherhood and Saksham]

PURPLE FUN ZONE

The Purple Fun was created to add a fun element to this three-day festival. From bird watching to a blind car rally, the event hosted many thrilling activities. The activity included touring Goa's beloved beaches, temples, and churches.

Bird Walk: A bird-watching activity was conducted at the Carambolim Lake. The is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area with 289

species of birds, making it one of the top birdwatching sites in Goa. [Curated by Arannya Environment Research Organization, Goa]

Fun at the Beach: The participants were taken for a dip in the sea at Miramar to experience the ocean. During the festival, Drishti lifeguards assisted them to wade into the shallow end at Miramar. A special ramp installed at Miramar Beach allowed the delegates with wheelchairs to visit the beach. They enjoyed their dip in a specially modified wheelchair with inflatable wheels.

Purple Bioscope: Accessible Movie Screening: A beautifully organised, accessible movie screening was scheduled for three days. The specialised



movie screening is done with Audio Description, Closed Captioning, and Sign Language Interpretation. [Curated by Saksham Trust, Delhi]

Cruise Ride: A cruise ride was the high point for the



delegates at Purple Fest. The cruise ride gave a tour of the Mandovi River, which started from the Santa Monica jetty in Panaji. This cruise had a wide array of entertainment, which included music and folk-dance performances.

Saksham Car Rally for the Visually Impaired: The Saksham Trust in Delhi assisted in organising a first-of-its-kind accessible car rally with navigators on the passenger seats for people with visual impairments. The braille maps were used to lead the way, with sighted people as drivers.

PURPLE RAIN

The core purpose of Purple Rain was to curate an evening of celebration and merrymaking. The event included live performances by renowned artists, music concerts, dance performances, and stand-up comedy shows. The event showcased the talent of visually impaired musicians, dancers with physical disabilities, and a choir that had singers with autism.

PURPLE EXHIBITION

The agenda of Purple Exhibition aimed at marvelling both science and art. The exhibition showcased the latest aids, appliances, and products developed by people with disabilities. It also conducted live art camps and other fun activities.

CLOSING CEREMONY

The event ended on a promising and positive note. Through such initiatives, Government of Goa will keep encourage people to overcoming personal stereotypes as well as to establish an environment that not only educates everyone about the disabled community



and their capabilities but also respect and celebrates diversity and inclusion.

The ceremony was held on 8th January at Inox Courtyard in the presence of Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant and Union Minister of State Tourism, Shri. Shripad Naik who presided over the function.

Of Year ENDING and Beginnings WITH ART!

Art on carpets... art to celebrate 75 years of independence... art from Goa in Delhi... lots of art to end the old and bring in the New Year! Enjoy this visual feast!

SAMIRA SHETH



AN unusual art and design exhibit – *Floored by Art* presented selected paintings by an array of Indian Masters

and contemporary artists woven by expert weavers on carpets! Going beyond art on canvas, the art carpet project curated by Sunil Sethi Design Alliance in collaboration

with Aguad opened on December 29th at Aguada Central Jail in Sinquerim. The stunning venue, the old jail converted into a spanking new cultural space, proudly

displayed these detailed and finely woven carpets to full effect.

Paintings by Manjit Bawa, MF Husain, Jehangir Sabavala, SH Raza, Ram Kumar, Paresh Maity, Jayashri Burman, Manu Parekh, T Vaikuntam and contemporaries including Sujata Bajaj, Thukral & Tagra, Bose Krishnamachari were translated into fine

wool by skilled artisans in this breathtaking display. The paintings for the project have been authorized and certified by the artists and their family members and each work has been reproduced onto the carpet in a limited edition.

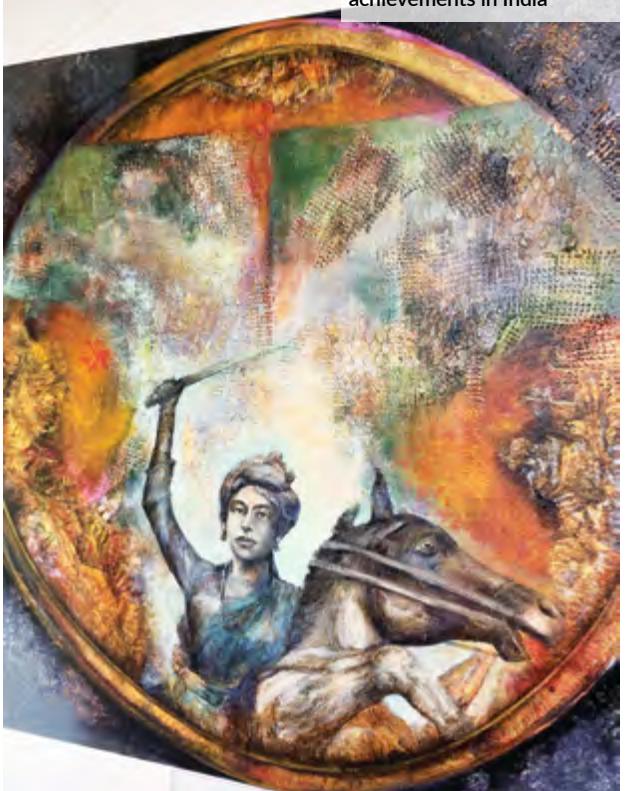
Each carpet, a work of art in its own right, could be displayed on the floor (except a beautiful Krishna by the late

Manjit Bawa) or hung up on the wall. Brought to Goa by Sunil Sethi, President of the Fashion Design Council of India, the exhibition with its startling change of medium and material really floored its audience!





Works by Asmani Shirgaonkar, Rajshree Thakker and Atharva Mandrekar celebrate significant achievements in India

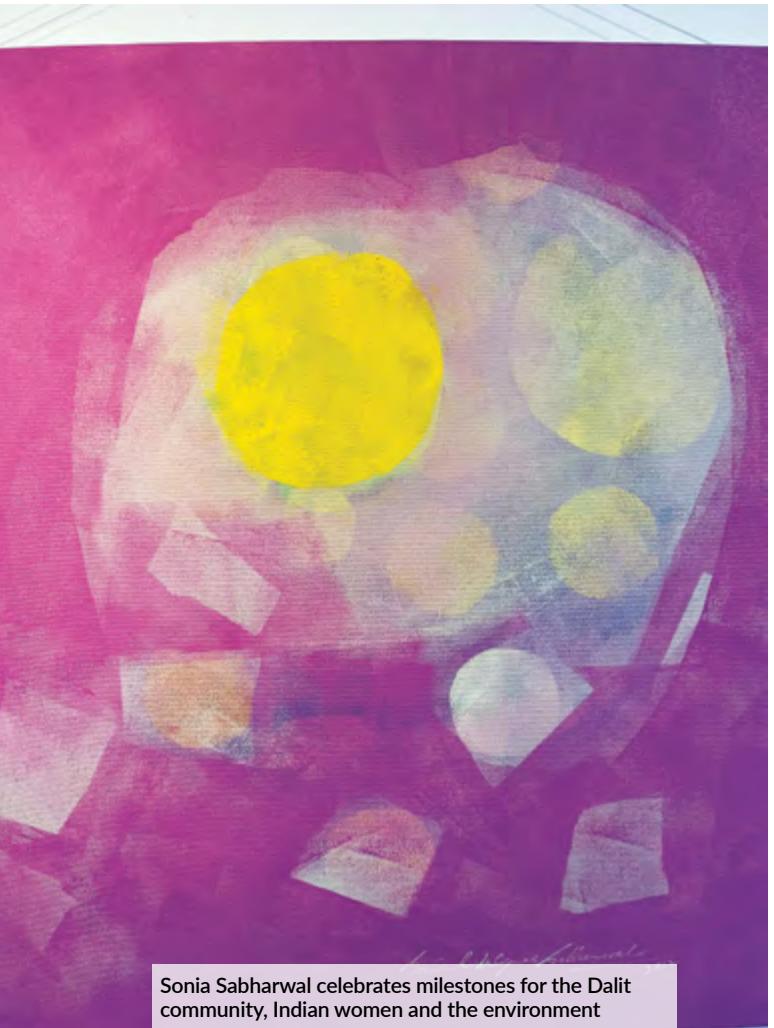


The Rotary Club Panaji Riviera presented a show spanning 75 years of India's Independence through artworks by artists in Goa. Held at the ESG Complex in conjunction with the Serendipity Arts Festival 2022, the exhibition was an artistic celebration of Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and was inaugurated by Goa CM Dr Pramod Sawant with the highly awarded photographer and filmmaker Anu Malhotra as Chief Guest. Thematically guided by noted senior artist Professor Hanuman Kamblu, each artist got one year in the last 75 years of India's Independence to interpret in their own way. Rajshree Thakker for instance employed mixed media in her evocative work on the year she received- 1953. She portrayed Jhansi Ki Rani and textured the work with elements resembling the strength of armour, the strength of women. In 1953, India's first technicolour film, Jhansi ki Rani was released,



Drive Safe

Don't use mobiles
while driving



Sonia Sabharwal celebrates milestones for the Dalit community, Indian women and the environment



Chief Minister, Goa, Dr Pramod Sawant inaugurates the show



Braganza House by Shripad Gurav

Vijaylakshmi Pandit was elected as the first woman President of the United Nations General Assembly.

In 1997, KR Narayanan was sworn in as the 10th President and the first member of the Dalit community to hold this office; Mother Teresa died; Kalpana Chawla became the first Indian origin woman to go to space; India's first electric car Reva was launched. Artist Sonia Sabharwal was inspired by some of these achievements in her dreamy yet carefully constructed work.

Each artist drew inspiration

from the significant achievements in the year they received to work with and it was really interesting to see how far we have come as a country; how much we need to celebrate and remember and perhaps work on to further and improve in this inspiring exhibition.



Painting by Dattaram Naik on Year 2017



Hymns in Black & White by Suhas Shilker

FROM GOA TO DELHI...WITH LOVE

A show of Goa's gifted artists travelled to Delhi in the New Year to turn the national spotlight on an oft ignored trajectory of Indian art. Goa is known for its beaches and nightlife, for its laidback susegad vibe but its art and artists rarely enter the conversation on a national scale despite some of India's top artists come from Goa including FN Souza and Gaitonde.

The exhibition *Short Stories from Goa*, curated by Ryan Semelhago and Samira Sheth, took eight Goa based artists from Goa to Delhi to tell their stories at the private gallery Art Explore as part of India Art Fair Parallel. Diverse in age, medium, style and practice,

each artist shares their own unique story, told visually in colour and tone, idiom and imagination on canvas and paper, in watercolour or acrylics. The 8 Participating Artists from Goa include Antonio E Costa, Shilpa Nashnolkar, Darpan Kaur, Shripad Gurav, Suhas Shilker, Viraj Naik, Norman Tagore & Manjunath Naik

Internationally renowned painter Antonio E Costa condenses the multitude of diverse cultures he has

experienced into stories told through abstract expressionism. The polyglot artist has lived across continents and his canvases pulsate with that vibrant gypsy energy. Shripad and Shilpa, Viraj, Norman and Manjunath embark on their artistic adventures with a panoply of intriguing characters – both strange and familiar, telling their tales in diverse languages. Abstractionists Suhas Shilker and Darpan Kaur have distinctively different

approaches. The senior artist, Suhas builds on the three notes dominant in the ancient Vedic chants in his layered canvases, resonant with both sound and silence. Darpan plays with splashes of colour to create narratives that charm, pulling one into her happy place, making the world a little more enchanting and uncommon.

These eight Goa based artists bring together character, plot, setting and tension, holding everything in fine balance to tell their own deeply felt stories



Animal Instinct 1 by Viraj Naik



Blue Girl by Shilpa Nashnolkar



Small format watercolours by Norman Tagore

that cross over borders of the imagination and connect us all through their startling visual impact.

“Everyone is longing for the ‘mood’ of Goa,” says Co Curator Samira Sheth. “And this exhibition is a way for everybody to experience or immerse themselves in that mood.”

Short Stories from Goa is also an endeavour to help shape viewer perspective of Goan art and robustly place it on a national art landscape and within a larger discourse.

“Considering some of India’s top artists come from Goa and are collected by museums abroad– FN Souza, VS Gaitonde, Angelo da Fonseca among them, and have left behind such a substantial legacy – it is a shame that the highly complex and finely nuanced School of Goan art (we have the Bengal School, the Baroda School but no distinctive Goan School despite one of the finest art colleges in the country and such distinguished artists) goes unrecognised and pretty much does not exist.

“This one of its kind art exhibition with contemporary artists based in Goa showing in Delhi promises to be an insightful bridge to this immeasurable legacy,” continues Samira.

Adds Co Curator Ryan Semelhago, “*Short stories from Goa* hopes to take Goan art to a larger audience across India and the sub-continent. This exhibition is the first in a planned series.

‘The Goan School of Art’ has produced masters such as, Antonio Trindade, VS Gaitonde and FN Souza, amongst others, who have paved the way for future generations of Goan artists. Goan art is vibrant and alive; and now, it’s time to help it evolve and establish itself globally.”



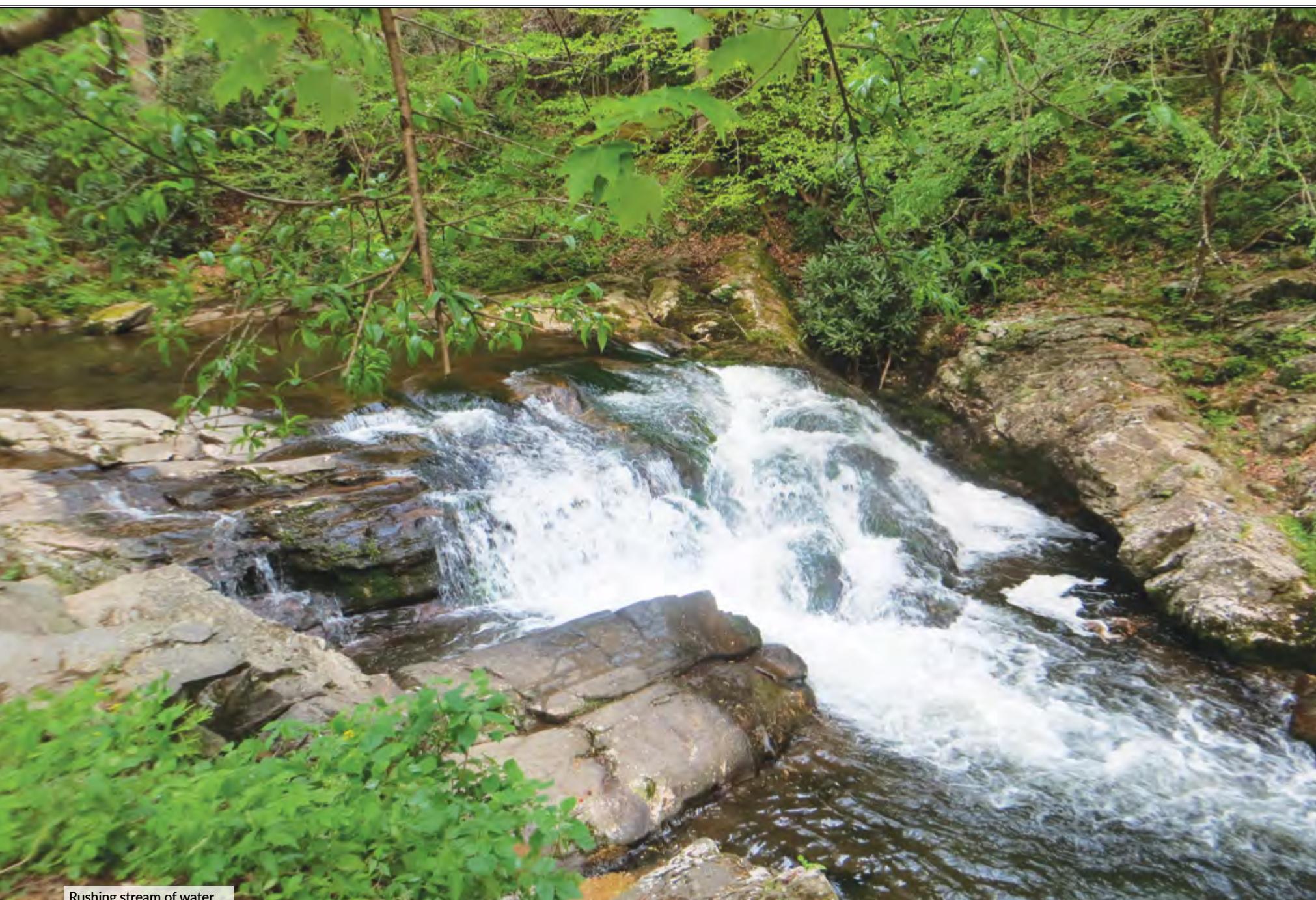
‘Short Stories from Goa’ opening night in Delhi

The Western Ghats in Knoxville!

TEXT AND PICS: MARIANNE DE NAZARETH



Picturesque tunnel in the Smokies



Rushing stream of water

THE kids had chosen Knoxville to live in and put down roots because it reminded them of the Western Ghats and Goa. Not the beaches of Goa of course, but the lush greenery of the Ghats which they have in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee. Being doctors, they could have chosen the richer states, but the music of the state too runs in their Goan blood and

needs to be ratcheted up every weekend, which is possible mainly in music loving Tennessee, with its laid back cafe's serving the best BBQ in the US. So, a cabin in the smoky mountains was where we headed to on my first weekend there. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park straddles the border of North Carolina and Tennessee. The sprawling landscape

encompasses lush forests and an abundance of wildflowers that bloom year-round. Streams, rivers and waterfalls appear along hiking routes that include a segment of the Appalachian Trail. An observation tower tops Clingmans Dome, the highest peak, offers scenic views of the mist-covered mountains, which is why they are called 'Smoky'. And ofcourse a wondrous diversity of

flora and fauna which the western Ghats are famous the world over too. Ridge upon ridge of forest covers the border between North Carolina and Tennessee and our weekend in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in April could not have been at a better time. World renowned for its diversity of plant and animal life, the beauty of its ancient



Open air restaurant

mountains, and the quality of its remnants of Southern Appalachian mountain culture, this is America's most visited national park.

However, the black Bears in the park are wild and their behavior can be unpredictable. We were warned to treat bear encounters with extreme caution, as they are wild and not teddy bears. However the rangers also warned us not to feed them or try to run away and startle them. Inspite of all the warnings, so many people go up to photograph them and get killed or mauled.

The Smoky Mountains are famous across the world and the park is famous for its displays of mountain laurel, rhododendron

and flame azaleas. The lovely pink and white flowers of mountain laurel bloom in early May through June. And the native Catawba rhododendron, which lives primarily at elevations above 3,500 makes splendid floral displays through the summer along with the famed Dogwood.

The following weekend we decided to drive down to Asheville in North Carolina where America's largest home, built by George Vanderbilt stands, in an 8000-acre awe inspiring and grand estate. I was totally excited as the property is in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Asheville, in North Carolina. Yes, John Denver made those Blue Ridge Mountains familiar to us even in far away



India and every true blue Goan has sung about his Blue Ridge mountains and the Shenandoah river.

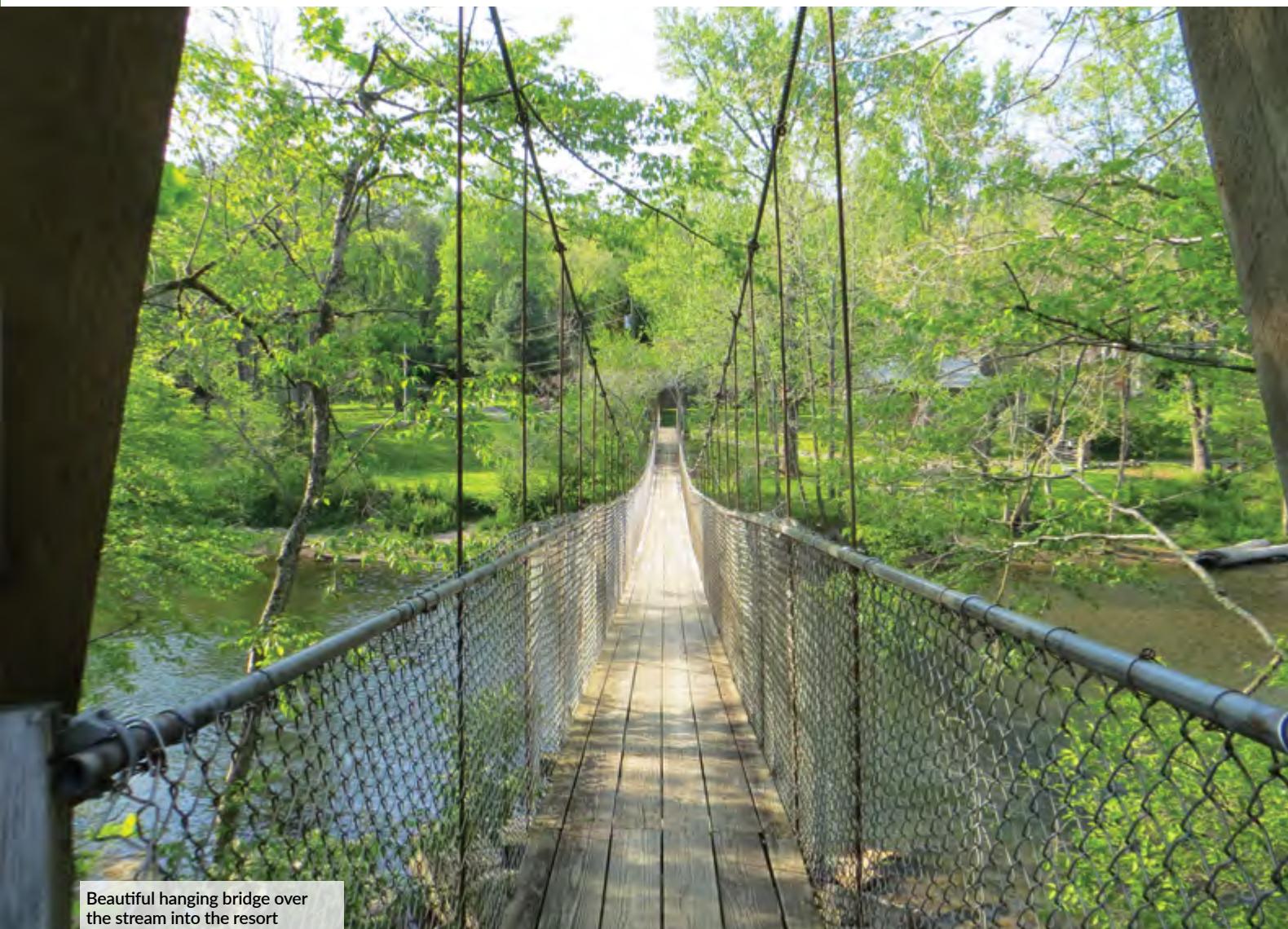
"For me, I find the Americans more inspiring as they have earned every penny of their fortunes themselves, not plundered other civilizations which colonial powers did," felt my son Andrew and I agreed completely with him, when we took a tour of the mansion and gasped at its treasures.

The Biltmore Estate is a great tourist attraction even at a pricey

69\$ entrance ticket and even though it was a weekday there was a pretty big crowd who had arrived, to take the tour. The main house on the estate, is a Chateau styled mansion, built between 1889 and 1895 and is the largest privately owned house in the United States, at 178,926 square feet of floor space and 135,280 square feet of living area. Still owned by one of Vanderbilt's descendants, it was ranked eighth in America's favourite architecture by the American Institute of Architects.

Vanderbilt commissioned prominent New York architect RM Hunt, who had previously designed houses for various Vanderbilt family members, to design the house in the Chateau style, using French chateaus that Vanderbilt and Hunt had visited in early 1889, and Waddesdon Manor in England, as inspiration with their steeply pitched roofs, turrets and sculptural ornamentation.

Biltmore has four acres of floor space and a total of 250 rooms in the house including 33





Choosing from the menu



In the Sunny Point Café



Pack a bottle of Montreal Steak & Lemon & Pepper salt to take home

bedrooms for family and guests, 43 bathrooms, 65 fireplaces, three kitchens and 19th-century novelties such as electric elevators, forced-air heating, centrally controlled clocks. The two-story Library contains over 10,000 volumes in eight languages, reflecting George Vanderbilt's broad interests in classic literature as well as works on art, history, architecture, and gardening. The basement includes an indoor 70,000-gallon heated swimming pool with underwater lighting; one of the nation's first bowling alleys installed in a private residence; and a gymnasium with once state-of-the-art (of that time!) fitness equipment.

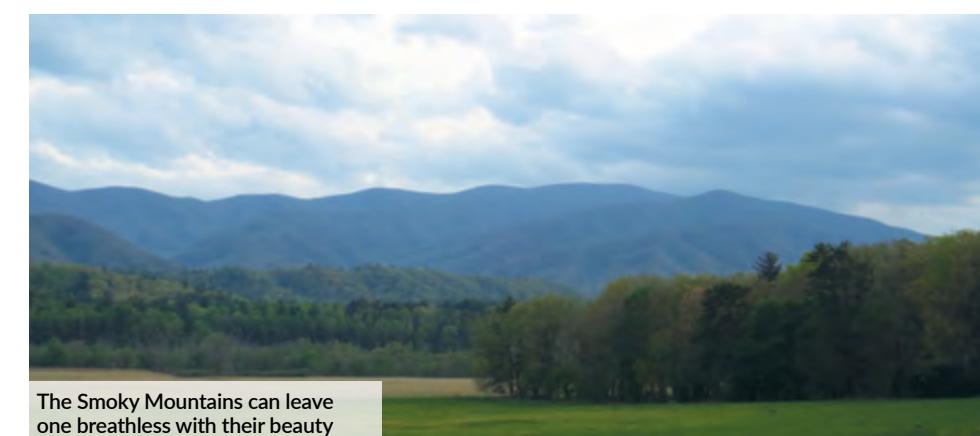
Wanting the best, Vanderbilt envisioned a park-like setting for his home and employed landscape architect F. Olmsted to design the grounds. Olmsted advised for a park surrounding the house, establishing farms along the

river and replanting the rest as a commercial timber forest. The house and estate were left to Cornelia Vanderbilt who married a John Cecil. With the failure of the marriage of the Cecils, Cornelia left the estate never to return; however, John Cecil maintained his residence in the Bachelors' Wing until his death in 1954. Their eldest son George Vanderbilt occupied rooms in the wing until 1956. At this point Biltmore House ceased to be a family residence and has continued to be operated as a historic house museum, with increasing portions of the house opened to viewing.

In both Tennessee and North Carolina people enjoy eating out and what we found amazing is that the choice of restaurant is decided by checking restaurant and food sites on phone apps. They are most often not fancy places, but the cuisine is local



Beds of tulips beautifying the city



The Smoky Mountains can leave one breathless with their beauty

CELEBS CHILL IN GOA

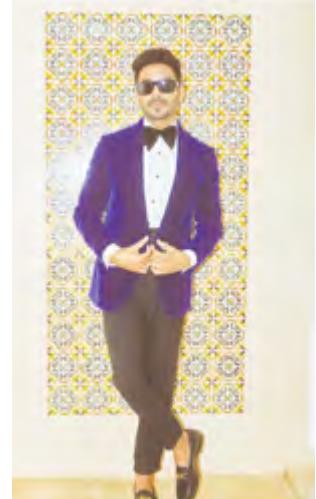
Goa is a little paradise on earth for everyone, including celebrities. Here are some stars who came to this beautiful state within the past few months...

Elnaaz Norouzi



Iranian-born actress @iamelnaz, while vacationing in the state, spoke at length to Goa Times about the turmoil in Iran and her social-media activism, the movement for women rights in Iran among other things.

Aparshakti Khurrana



In goa to host India's first-ever experiential creator festival - Creators United 2023 Awards.

Soha Ali Khan Pataudi



Soha Ali Khan shares post holiday pictures with daughter Inaaya at a beach on her recent trip to Goa.

Bhagyashree



@bhagyashree.online starts her new year at Goa.

Neha Bhasin



@nehabhasin4u ready to welcome New Year 2023 in Goa where the actress is spending time with family.

Tamannaah Bhatia and Vijay Varma



Tamannaah Bhatia and Vijay Varma's holiday together in Goa

Mira Kapoor



Mira recently enjoyed a day out with her kids and extended family at Goa beach.

Akshay Kumar



Akshay spends family holiday at the Villa In Palms, Goa.

Ajay Devgan, Tabu, and cast of movie Drishyam 2



The Drishyam 2 team were in Goa for the launch of the trailer of the film at a grand event in Goa

Events and Activities **COMING UP**

Here we have some of the most exciting and refreshing events that you need to march into right away.

GOA CARNIVAL 2023



WHEN: February 18 - February 21
WHERE: Panjim, Mapusa, Margao, and Vasco

The high spirits of Goa shoot up during the three-day Goa Carnival celebrations. The three days preceding Lent (February) see all Goa whirling to the mad beat of the music, drink, and dance. King Momo and his consort preside over the festivities.

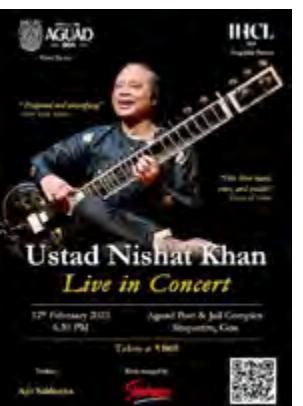
HILLTOP FESTIVAL



WHEN: February 10 - February 13
WHERE: Ozran Beach Road, Near St. Michael's School, Vagator, Goa

Located in Vagator, right between Vagator and Anjuna Beaches, The Hill Top is one of Goa's most iconic and happening trance party destinations. Started by Steve and Starling D'Souza in 1974, it has since retained the 60s hippie vibe of Goa and has been the haunt of many night club and party enthusiasts. Explore upcoming music events at Hill Top, Goa ranging from club gigs to music festivals.

USTAD NISHAT KHAN - LIVE IN CONCERT



WHEN: January 28 - 29, 2023
WHERE: Dasya - The Good Place, Kamat Nagar, Defence Colony, Porvorim, Sangolda

Saturday Program:
1600 - 1620 hrs: Garden Tour (no charge)
1620 - 1730 hrs: Organic Farming workshop 1 - covers basics in soil preparation, seeding and transplanting (demo + hands on)

Sunday Program
1600 - 1620 hrs: Garden Tour (no charge)
1620 - 1730 hrs: Organic Farming workshop 2 - covers basics in watering, composting, harvesting (demo + hands on)

Per workshop charges: Rs. 200
Ages: 13yrs and above. All levels of gardening/farming experience welcome

LOKOTSAV GOA 2023



WHEN: January 30th - February 8th 2023

WHERE: Darya Sangam, Kala Academy Complex Panaji
Around 500 performing artists from different states of India participated in the festival and present folk dances and folk music of their respective states. More than 600 craft persons and traditional food vendors from various states of India and from along with Goa had put up their stalls to showcase and sell their handicrafts, handlooms, traditional

WHEN: January 22
WHERE: offbeat goa space, Chinvar, Opp Hacienda de Goa Anjuna Vagator Road, Anjuna, Goa

jewellery items and packed food etc., during the festival period.

GARDEN TOUR AND ORGANIC FARMING WORKSHOP @ THE NEW EARTH SUMMIT 2023



New Earth Gathering - A vegan community market promoting sustainability on Sunday. The market is meant to help us all transition to a healthier, more sustainable way of life with products that are healthy, non-toxic, chemical free, handmade/up-cycled, bio-degradable, and promote sustainable living.

GOA ARTS AND LITERATURE FESTIVAL



WHEN: January 17 - 19, 2023
WHERE: International Centre Goa (ICG)

The 11th edition of Goa Arts and Literature festival was held at ICG - International Centre Goa from 17th to 19th January 2023. The event had a sustained focus on Goa's state language and literature throughout. GALF 2023 featured exciting book launches, presentations, panel discussions and films.

PURPLE FEST 2023



WHEN: January 6th - 8th, 2023
WHERE: Entertainment Society of Goa Dayanand Bandodkar Marg, Panaji, Goa

The Purple Fest is a one-of-a-kind initiative taken by the State of Goa to give opportunities to specially challenged individuals to rejoice in this fun and activity filled event.

NEW EARTH GATHERING - A COMMUNITY MARKET PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY



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